

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT
 (to the Prospectus dated July 31, 2017)



PAIN THERAPEUTICS, INC.

8,860,778 Shares of Common Stock

We are offering 8,860,778 shares of our common stock at a price of \$1.15 per share to certain institutional and accredited investors pursuant to this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus. In a concurrent private placement, or the private placement, we are also selling to the purchasers of our common stock in this offering common stock purchase warrants, or warrants, to purchase an aggregate of up to 8,860,778 shares of our common stock, at a purchase price of \$0.125 per warrant. Each purchaser in this offering will receive in the private placement warrants to purchase up to 100% of the number of shares of common stock purchased by such purchaser in this offering. The warrants and the shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of the warrants are not being registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and are being offered pursuant to the exemption provided in Section 4(a)(2) under the Securities Act and Rule 506(b) promulgated thereunder, and they are not being offered pursuant to this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus. There is no established public trading market for the Warrants and we do not expect a market to develop. In addition, we do not intend to list the Warrants on the Nasdaq Capital Market, any other national securities exchange or any other nationally recognized trading system.

Our common stock is listed and trades on The Nasdaq Capital Market under the symbol “PTIE.” The last reported sale price of our common stock on The Nasdaq Capital Market on August 14, 2018 was \$1.11 per share.

The aggregate market value of our outstanding voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates, or public float, computed by reference to the price at which our common stock was last sold on The Nasdaq Capital Market on June 18, 2018, which was \$10.09 per share, and the number of outstanding shares of our common stock held by non-affiliates, which was 5,803,720 as of June 18, 2018, is approximately \$58.6 million. Pursuant to General Instruction I.B.6 of Form S-3, in no event will we sell securities registered in a public primary offering with a value exceeding more than one-third of our public float in any 12 calendar month period so long as our public float remains below \$75.0 million. As of the date of this prospectus supplement, we have sold an aggregate of approximately \$4.1 million of securities pursuant to General Instruction I.B.6 of Form S-3 during the 12 calendar month period that ends on and includes the date of this prospectus supplement, all of which were sold under the ATM Agreement, as defined herein, providing for sales of our common stock in an “at the market offering” as defined in Rule 415 promulgated under the Securities Act.

We have engaged H.C. Wainwright & Co., LLC, or Wainwright or the placement agent, to act as our exclusive placement agent for this offering. The placement agent has agreed to use its “reasonable best efforts” to arrange for the sale of our common stock offered by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus, but the placement agent has no obligation to purchase or sell any of such shares or to arrange for the purchase or sale of any specific number or dollar amount of such shares. There is no required minimum number of shares of our common stock that must be sold as a condition to completion of this offering. Because there is no minimum offering amount required as a condition to closing this offering, the actual offering amount, placement agent fees, and proceeds to us, if any, are not presently determinable and may be substantially less than the total maximum offering amounts set forth below. We have not arranged to place the funds from investors in an escrow, trust or similar account. We have agreed to pay the placement agent the fees set forth in the table below in connection with this offering, which assumes that we sell all of the shares of common stock we are offering hereby.

	Per Share	Total
Offering price	\$ 1.15	\$ 10,189,894.70
Placement agent’s fees ⁽¹⁾	\$ 0.0805	\$ 713,292.63
Proceeds to us (before expenses) ⁽²⁾	\$ 1.0695	\$ 9,476,602.07

(1) In addition, we have agreed to reimburse the placement agent for certain of its expenses and to issue warrants to purchase shares of common stock to the placement agent. Neither the placement agent warrants nor the shares of our common stock issuable upon exercise of the placement agent warrants are being registered hereby. See “Plan of Distribution” beginning on page S-13 of this prospectus supplement for more information.

(2) Does not include proceeds from the exercise of the warrants to be issued in the private placement or to be issued to the placement agent in cash, if any.

Delivery of the shares of common stock offered hereby is expected to be made on or about August 17, 2018, subject to customary closing conditions.

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. Before making any investment decision, you should carefully review and consider all the information in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying base prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein, including the risks and uncertainties described under “Risk Factors” beginning on page S-4 of this prospectus supplement and the risk factors incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus supplement or the accompanying base prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

We have applied to list the shares offered hereby on The Nasdaq Capital Market.

H.C. Wainwright & Co.

The date of this prospectus supplement is August 15, 2018.

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This prospectus supplement describes the terms of this offering and adds to and updates information contained in the accompanying prospectus. The accompanying prospectus provides more general information, some of which may not apply to this offering. Generally, when we refer to this prospectus, we are referring to this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus combined. To the extent there is a conflict between the information contained in this prospectus supplement, on the one hand, and the information contained in the accompanying prospectus, on the other hand, you should rely on the information contained in this prospectus supplement.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We have not, and the placement agent has not, authorized anyone to provide additional information or information different from that contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. This prospectus does not constitute an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to purchase, the securities offered by this prospectus in any jurisdiction where it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation. Neither the delivery of this prospectus nor the sale of shares of common stock means that information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus is correct after its respective dates. These documents do not constitute an offer to sell or solicitation of any offer to buy these shares of common stock in any circumstances under which the offer or solicitation is unlawful.

Unless otherwise expressly stated or the context otherwise requires, references in this prospectus to "Pain Therapeutics," "we," "us," "our" or "the company" are to Pain Therapeutics, Inc.

STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus include statements about future events and expectations that constitute forward-looking statements. Such forward-looking statements include, without limitation, statements concerning regulatory filings, development activity and capital expenditures, and capital raising activities. Words such as “expects,” “anticipates,” “intends,” “plans,” “believes,” “seeks,” “estimates,” and variations of such words and similar expressions are intended to identify such forward-looking statements. Such statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which may cause the actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from the results of operations or plans expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Such factors include, among other things, unanticipated adverse business developments and adverse changes in general and local economies and business conditions. Although we believe that the assumptions underlying such forward-looking statements are reasonable, any of the assumptions could be inaccurate, and therefore such statements may not prove to be accurate. In light of the significant uncertainties inherent in the forward-looking statements included herein, the inclusion of such information should not be regarded as a representation by us or any other person that the results or conditions described in such statements or our objectives and plans will be achieved.

The following factors, among others, could cause our future results to differ materially from those expressed in the forward-looking statements:

- Our ability to initiate a clinical study with PTI-125, our product candidate targeted at Alzheimer’s disease;
- the potential benefits of our product candidates, such as PTI-125 or PTI-125DX, including the potential ability of PTI-125 to prevent or reverse amyloid-related Alzheimer’s damage or PTI-125DX to diagnose Alzheimer’s disease;
- the outcome of research and development activities, including, without limitation, development activities for PTI-125, PTI-125 DX and FENROCK™;
- discussions with potential strategic partners for the development and commercialization of our product candidates;
- the timing, topics and outcomes of our discussions with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (the “FDA”) regarding REMOXY® ER (oxycodone capsules CII), or REMOXY, including whether we cease development of REMOXY;
- the utility of protection, or the sufficiency, of our intellectual property;
- potential competitors or competitive products;
- expected future sources of revenue and capital and increasing cash needs;
- market acceptance of our drug candidates and potential drug candidates;
- expectations regarding trade secrets, technological innovations, licensing agreements and outsourcing of certain business functions;
- expenses increasing, interest income decreasing or fluctuations in our financial or operating results;
- operating losses and anticipated operating and capital expenditures;
- expectations regarding the issuance of shares of common stock to employees pursuant to equity compensation awards net of employment taxes;
- anticipated hiring and development of our internal systems and infrastructure;
- the sufficiency of our current resources to fund our operations over the next 12 months; and
- assumptions and estimates used for our disclosures regarding stock-based compensation.

Such forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties, including, but not limited to, those risks and uncertainties relating to:

- difficulties or delays in development, testing, clinical trials (including patient enrollment), regulatory authorization or approval, production and commercialization of PTI-125, PTI-125DX or our other product candidates;

- difficulties or delays in potentially obtaining regulatory approval of PTI-125, PTI-125DX or our other product candidates;
- having or obtaining sufficient resources for the successful development, manufacture and commercialization of our product candidates;
- unexpected adverse side effects or inadequate therapeutic efficacy, or manufacturing or stability issue of our product candidates that could slow or prevent product approval (including the risk that current and past results of clinical trials are not indicative of future results of clinical trials) or potential post-approval market acceptance;
- the uncertainty of protection of our intellectual property rights or trade secrets;
- potential infringement of the intellectual property rights of third parties;
- pursuing in-license and acquisition opportunities;
- legislation or regulatory actions affecting product pricing, reimbursement or access;
- significant breakdown or interruption of our information technology and infrastructure;
- significant issues that may arise related to outsourcing certain preclinical studies, clinical trials and formation and manufacturing activities;
- hiring and retaining personnel; and
- our financial position and our ability to obtain additional financing if necessary.

Please also refer to the section entitled “Risk Factors” in this prospectus supplement and in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, as such risk factors may be amended, updated or modified periodically in our reports filed with the SEC, and the financial data and related notes and the reports incorporated by reference in this prospectus, for further information on these and other risks affecting us.

We caution you not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements because our future results may differ materially from those expressed or implied by them. We do not intend to update any forward-looking statement, whether written or oral, relating to the matters discussed in this prospectus, except as required by law.

REMOXY and FENROCK are trademarks of Pain Therapeutics, Inc.

This summary highlights information contained elsewhere in this prospectus or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. This summary does not contain all of the information that you should consider before making an investment decision. Before you decide to invest in our common stock, you should carefully read this prospectus supplement in its entirety and carefully consider the risks and uncertainties described in “Risk Factors” in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying base prospectus and our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, as such risk factors may be amended, updated or modified periodically in our reports filed with the SEC, and the financial data and related notes and the reports incorporated by reference herein and therein.

Company Overview

Pain Therapeutics develops proprietary drugs that offer significant improvements to patients and healthcare professionals. We generally focus our drug development efforts on disorders of the nervous system.

Our expertise consists of developing new drug candidates and guiding these drug candidates through various regulatory and development pathways in preparation for their potential commercialization. By necessity, the conduct of drug development is complex, lengthy, expensive and risky. The FDA has not yet established the safety or efficacy of our drug candidates.

The lead candidate in our pipeline has historically been REMOXY ER, a proprietary abuse-deterrent, extended-release form of oxycodone to treat severe chronic pain. On August 3, 2018, we received a Complete Response Letter (“CRL”) from the FDA for our New Drug Application (“NDA”) for REMOXY, stating that the data submitted in the NDA does not support the conclusion that the benefits of REMOXY Extended-Release Capsules outweigh the risks. We disagree with the FDA on certain complex scientific/medical matters and, consequently, a formal dispute may arise between ourselves and the FDA regarding the CRL issued on August 3, 2018. The FDA has in-place a structured administrative process to resolve such scientific/medical disputes, which is called a Formal Dispute Resolution (“FDR”). Pending further discussions with the FDA, we may choose to appeal the CRL through an FDR or take other measures. REMOXY has been the subject of four CRLs to date. If we proceed with an FDR there can be no assurance that such FDR will satisfactorily resolve any scientific/medical disputes between ourselves and the FDA. If we do not prevail in an FDR, or if we chose not to pursue an FDR, we may cease development of REMOXY.

Following receipt of the CRL, we have initiated a strategic reorganization to align our resources on advancing our drug and diagnostic assets in Alzheimer’s disease. PTI-125, the lead drug candidate in this portfolio, is a proprietary small molecule that has a unique mechanism of action for treating Alzheimer’s disease. PTI-125 recently completed a successful Phase I clinical-stage program, funded by a peer-reviewed research grant from the National Institutes of Health. Our other asset in Alzheimer’s, PTI-125DX, is a proprietary, blood-based diagnostic/biomarker to detect or confirm whether a person has Alzheimer’s, potentially years before symptoms appear. An early diagnosis of Alzheimer’s could allow treatment to start sooner, optimize treatment options for each individual and improve chances to slow or halt the disease. This early-stage program is substantially funded by a research grant award from the NIH.

We were incorporated in Delaware in May 1998. Our principal executive offices are located at 7801 N Capital of Texas Highway, Suite 260, Austin, TX, 78731 and our telephone number at that address is (512) 501-2444.

Additional information regarding our company is set forth in documents on file with the SEC and incorporated by reference in this prospectus, as described below under the sections entitled “Where You Can Find More Information” and “Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference.

Recent Developments

On August 8, 2018, we received a letter from the Listing Qualifications Department of Nasdaq notifying the Company that our application to transfer our listing from the Nasdaq Global Select Market to The Nasdaq Capital Market has been approved. Our common stock was transferred to The Nasdaq Capital Market at the opening of business on August 13, 2018 and continues to trade on The Nasdaq Capital Market under the symbol “PTIE.”

On August 15, 2018, we announced that NIH awarded us a \$3.2 million clinical research grant to support a Phase II study with PTI-125. We expect to initiate the study during the fourth quarter of 2018.

On August 16, 2018, we filed a prospectus supplement suspending sales of our common stock under our ATM Agreement and limiting such sales to up to \$7,000,000 of shares. We have sold a total of \$4.1 million shares of our common stock under the ATM Agreement as of the date of this prospectus supplement.

The Offering

Securities Offered in This Offering	8,860,778 shares of our common stock, par value \$0.001 per share
Offering Price	\$1.15 per share
Common Stock Outstanding Before This Offering	8,258,522 shares ⁽¹⁾
Common Stock to be Outstanding After This Offering	17,119,300 shares ⁽¹⁾
Private Placement of Warrants	In the private placement, we are selling to purchasers of our common stock in this offering warrants to purchase an aggregate of up to 8,860,778 shares of our common stock at a purchase price of \$0.125 per warrant. Each purchaser in this offering will receive in the private placement warrants to purchase up to 100% of the number of shares of common stock purchased by such purchaser in this offering. The warrants will be immediately exercisable on their date of issuance at an exercise price of \$1.25 per share and will remain exercisable until the 2.5-year anniversary of their date of issuance. We expect the private placement will close concurrently with the closing of this offering. The warrants and the shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of the warrants are not being registered under the Securities Act and are being offered pursuant to the exemption provided in Section 4(a)(2) under the Securities Act and Rule 506(b) promulgated thereunder, and they are not being offered pursuant to this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus. There is no established public trading market for the Warrants and we do not expect a market to develop. In addition, we do not intend to list the Warrants on the Nasdaq Capital Market, any other national securities exchange or any other nationally recognized trading system. See "Private Placement of Warrants."
Use of Proceeds	We expect to use the net proceeds received from this offering, if any, for drug development and general corporate purposes and for other working capital and general corporate purposes. See "Use of Proceeds" on page S-10.
Risk Factors	Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. Before you decide to invest in our common stock, you should carefully read this prospectus supplement in its entirety and carefully consider the risks and uncertainties described in "Risk Factors" beginning on page S-4 of this prospectus supplement, beginning on page 3 of the accompanying base prospectus and in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, as such risk factors may be amended, updated or modified periodically in our reports filed with the SEC, and the financial data and related notes and the reports incorporated by reference herein and therein.
Nasdaq Capital Market Symbol	PTIE

(1) Based on 8,258,522 shares of our common stock outstanding as of August 14, 2018 and excludes, as of that date, the following:

- 2,753,898 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of outstanding options having a weighted-average exercise price of \$15.44 per share, of which approximately 1,804,518 shares having a weighted-average exercise price of \$20.87 per share were exercisable;
- 152,340 shares of common stock issuable upon the vesting and settlement of outstanding restricted stock units;
- 985,000 shares of common stock reserved for issuance and available for future grant under our 2018 Omnibus Incentive Plan; and
- 58,017 shares of common stock reserved for issuance and available for future grant under our Employee Stock Purchase Plan.

Our shares of common stock outstanding as of August 14, 2018 also exclude the following warrants that will be issued in the private placement and to the placement agent in connection with this offering:

- up to 8,860,778 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise, at an exercise price of \$1.25, of the warrants to be issued in the private placement, as described under “Private Placement of Warrants;” and
- up to 265,823 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise, at an exercise price of \$1.59, of the warrants to be issued to the placement agent as compensation in connection with this offering as described under “Plan of Distribution.”

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our common stock is subject to risk. Our business, financial condition, and results of operations could be materially adversely affected by any of these risks. The trading price of our common stock could decline due to any of these risks, and you may lose all or part of your investment. Before you decide to invest in our common stock, you should carefully read this prospectus supplement in its entirety and carefully consider the risks described herein and "Risk Factors" in the accompanying base prospectus and our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, as such risk factors may be amended, updated or modified periodically in our reports filed with the SEC, and the financial data and related notes and the reports incorporated by reference herein or therein.

Risks Related to this Offering and Our Common Stock

We recently announced that we are initiating a strategic reorganization. If we are unsuccessful in the execution of our new strategic reorganization, our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects will be materially adversely affected.

The lead candidate in our pipeline has historically been REMOXY ER, a proprietary abuse-deterrent, extended-release form of oxycodone to treat severe chronic pain, and our revenues and our business have historically been dependent upon the potential commercialization, and success thereof, of REMOXY ER. On August 3, 2018, we received a CRL from the FDA for our NDA for REMOXY, stating that the data submitted in the NDA does not support the conclusion that the benefits of REMOXY Extended-Release Capsules outweigh the risks. Pending further discussions with the FDA, we may choose to appeal the CRL through an FDR or take other measures. If we proceed with an FDR there can be no assurance that such FDR will satisfactorily resolve any scientific/medical disputes between ourselves and the FDA. If we do not prevail in an FDR, or if we chose not to pursue an FDR, we may cease development of REMOXY. Following receipt of the CRL, we have initiated a strategic reorganization to align our resources on advancing our drug and diagnostic assets in Alzheimer's disease, away from our previous focus on treatment of chronic pain.

The success of our business will depend upon our ability to develop and commercialize drug and diagnostic assets in Alzheimer's disease based on tests in our current pipeline, as well as others that we may in-license in the future. There can be no assurance that we will be able to continue to implement the reorganization successfully or that we will realize the projected benefits of this initiative. If we do not successfully execute our strategic reorganization, our financial results will be adversely affected. Even if we execute this strategic reorganization as planned, we may not yield the anticipated benefits. Moreover, our continued implementation of our strategic reorganization may entail such actions as a reduction in headcount or other savings initiatives and diversion of resources from other drugs currently in our pipeline which may have a material adverse effect on our business and profitability. Furthermore, our financial condition and results of operations following the strategic reorganization may not be comparable to the financial condition and results of operations reflected in our historical financial statements and historical financial information may not be indicative of our future financial performance.

We have broad discretion in the use of the net proceeds from this offering and may not use them effectively.

Our management has broad discretion in the application of the net proceeds from this offering, and you will not have the opportunity as part of your investment decision to assess whether the net proceeds are being used appropriately. Our management could spend the net proceeds from this offering in ways that do not improve our results of operations or enhance the value of our common stock. The failure by our management to apply these funds effectively could result in financial losses that could have a material adverse effect on our business, cause the price of our common stock to decline and delay the development of our product candidates. Pending their use, we may invest the net proceeds from this offering in a manner that does not produce income or that loses value.

If you purchase shares of common stock sold in this offering, you will incur immediate dilution.

If you purchase shares of our common stock in this offering, you will experience immediate dilution in the as adjusted net tangible book value per share after giving effect to this offering, based on the offering price of \$1.15 and a net tangible book value of \$1.14 as of July 31, 2018, because the price that you pay will be greater than the \$1.09 as adjusted net tangible book value per share of the common stock that you acquire. This dilution is due in large part to the expenses associated with the offering lowering the pro forma net tangible book value. You may experience additional dilution upon exercise of the outstanding stock options and other equity awards that may be granted under our equity incentive plans, and when we otherwise issue additional shares of our common stock. For more information, see “Dilution.”

We may sell additional equity or debt securities to fund our operations, which may result in dilution to our stockholders and impose restrictions on our business.

In order to raise additional capital to support our operations, we may sell additional shares of our common stock or other securities convertible into or exchangeable for our common stock including under our ATM Agreement (as defined below), which could result in dilution our stockholders. On February 8, 2018, we entered into the Capital on Demand™ Sales Agreement, or the ATM Agreement, with JonesTrading Institutional Services LLC (“JonesTrading”), for the offer and sale up to \$16.9 million of shares of our common stock, from time to time in one or more public offerings of our common stock, with JonesTrading acting as agent. Such transactions are to be made pursuant to a shelf registration statement that was declared effective by the SEC on July 31, 2017. On August 16, 2018, we filed a prospectus supplement limiting sales under such ATM Agreement to up to \$7.0 million of shares of our common stock. We have sold a total of \$4.1 million shares of our common stock under the ATM Agreement as of the date of this prospectus supplement. The securities purchase agreements that we entered into with the purchasers of our common stock in this offering require that we not issue, enter into any agreement to issue or announce the issuance or proposed issuance of any shares of our common stock from the date of this prospectus supplement to 90 days from August 17, 2018, and as a result, we have suspended sales under our ATM Agreement during such period. We cannot assure you that we will be able to sell shares or other securities in any other offering at a price per share that is equal to or greater than the price per share paid by investors in prior offerings, and investors purchasing our shares or other securities in the future could have rights superior to existing shareholders. The price per share at which we sell additional shares of our common stock or securities convertible into or exchangeable for our common stock in future transactions may be higher or lower than the price per share in prior offerings.

Our stock price has been volatile and could experience a sudden decline in value.

Our common stock has experienced significant price and volume fluctuations and may continue to experience volatility in the future. You may not be able to sell your shares quickly or at the latest market price if trading in our stock is not active or the volume is low.

The following factors, in addition to other risk factors described in this section, may have a significant impact on the market price of our common stock:

- results of or delays in efforts to conduct successful clinical trials, and potentially obtain regulatory approval for PTI-125 or PTI-125DX, and in preclinical studies and clinical trials for our other drug candidates;
- publicity regarding products under development by us or others, including with respect to actual or potential medical results relating to such matters;
- announcements of technological innovations or new commercial products by us or others;
- developments in patent or other proprietary rights by us or others;
- comments or opinions by securities analysts or major stockholders;
- adverse media coverage related to opioid pharmaceuticals;
- future sales of our common stock by existing stockholders;

- developments with respect to potential merger and acquisition activity of companies with whom we have strategic alliances or other agreements;
- regulatory developments or changes in regulatory guidance enacted by applicable governmental or other authorities;
- litigation or threats of litigation;
- economic and other external factors or other disaster or crises;
- the departure of any of our officers, directors or key employees;
- period-to-period fluctuations in financial results;
- announcement or expectations of additional financing efforts;
- changes in accounting practices;
- changes in the structure of the healthcare payment system;
- market conditions in the biopharmaceutical industry;
- publication of research reports about us, our competitor or our industry, or positive or negative recommendations or withdrawal of research coverage by securities analysts; and
- limited daily trading volume.

We are a smaller reporting company and we cannot be certain if the reduced disclosure requirements applicable to smaller reporting companies will make our common stock less attractive to investors.

We are currently a “smaller reporting company” as defined in the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and are thus allowed to provide simplified executive compensation disclosures in our filings, are exempt from the provisions of Section 404(b) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act requiring that an independent registered public accounting firm provide an attestation report on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting and have certain other reduced disclosure obligations with respect to our SEC filings. We will remain a “smaller reporting company” until the aggregate market value of our outstanding common stock held by non-affiliates as of the last business day our recently completed second fiscal quarter is \$75 million or more. We cannot predict whether investors will find our common stock less attractive because of our reliance on any of these exemptions. If some investors find our common stock less attractive as a result, there may be a less active trading market for our common stock and our stock price may be more volatile.

We have in the past and may in the future fail to meet all applicable listing requirements and, our common stock may be delisted from The Nasdaq Capital Market, which could have an adverse impact on the liquidity and market price of our common stock.

Our common stock is currently listed on The Nasdaq Capital Market, which has qualitative and quantitative listing criteria that we must meet in order to remain listed on Nasdaq.

We have in the past temporarily fallen out of compliance with Nasdaq listing standards and there can be no assurance that we will continue to meet Nasdaq listing requirements in the future.

On March 13, 2018, we received a notice from the staff of The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC (the “Staff”) that we were not in compliance with Nasdaq Listing Rule 5450, setting forth the requirements for continued listing on Nasdaq. Nasdaq Listing Rule 5450 requires, among other things, that we meet one of the three standards under Nasdaq Listing Rule 5450(b); the Equity Standard; the Market Value Standard; or the Total Asset/Total Revenue Standard. The Staff notice stated that we were not in compliance with Nasdaq Listing Rule 5450(b)(2)(A) (under the Market Value Standard), as the minimum market value of our common stock had been below \$50 million for 30 consecutive business days. In addition, the Staff notice stated that we also do not meet the requirements under Nasdaq Listing Rule 5450(b)(3)(A) (under the Total Asset/Total Revenue Standard).

On April 26, 2018, following ten consecutive business days during which the market value of our common stock was \$50 million or greater, we regained compliance with Nasdaq Listing Rule 5450(b)(2)(A).

On August 8, 2018, we received a letter from the Listing Qualifications Department of Nasdaq notifying the Company that our application to transfer our Nasdaq listing from the Nasdaq Global Select Market to The Nasdaq Capital Market has been approved. Our common stock was transferred to The Nasdaq Capital Market the opening of business on August 13, 2018 and continues to trade on Nasdaq under the symbol “PTIE.” This transfer of our listing to The Nasdaq Capital Market or any other similar future transfers could adversely affect the liquidity of our common stock. Any such event could make it more difficult to dispose of, or obtain accurate quotations for the price of, our common stock, and there also would likely be a reduction in our coverage by securities analysts and the news media, which could cause the price of our common stock to decline further. We may also face other material adverse consequences in such event, such as negative publicity, a decreased ability to obtain additional financing, diminished investor and/or employee confidence, and the loss of business development opportunities, some or all of which may contribute to a further decline in our stock price.

If future events cause our common stock to be delisted, the liquidity of our common stock would be adversely affected and the market price of our common stock could decrease. We have applied to have the shares of common stock sold in this offering listed on The Nasdaq Capital Market. Such listing, however, is not guaranteed. If the application is not approved, we may be required to hold a stockholder meeting to ratify the offering, and if our stockholders do not approve the offering at any such stockholder meeting, we may be delisted from The Nasdaq Capital Market.

Anti-takeover provisions in our charter documents and Delaware law may prevent or delay removal of incumbent management or a change of control.

Anti-takeover provisions of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws and Delaware law may have the effect of deterring or delaying attempts by our stockholders to remove or replace management, engage in proxy contests and effect changes in control. The provisions of our charter documents include:

- a classified board so that only one of the three classes of directors on the Board of Directors is elected each year;
- elimination of cumulative voting in the election of directors;
- procedures for advance notification of stockholder nominations and proposals;
- the ability of the Board of Directors to amend our bylaws without stockholder approval; and
- the ability of the Board of Directors to issue up to 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock without stockholder approval upon the terms and conditions and with the rights, privileges and preferences as the Board of Directors may determine.

In addition, as a Delaware corporation, we are subject to Delaware law, including Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law. In general, Section 203 prohibits a Delaware corporation from engaging in any business combination with any interested stockholder for a period of three years following the date that the stockholder became an interested stockholder unless certain specific requirements are met as set forth in Section 203.

These provisions, alone or together, could have the effect of deterring or delaying changes in incumbent management, proxy contests or changes in control.

Our share ownership is concentrated, and our officers, directors and principal stockholders can exert significant control over matters requiring stockholder approval.

Due to their combined stock holdings, our officers, directors and principal stockholders (stockholders holding greater than 5% of our common stock) acting collectively may have the ability to exercise significant influence over matters requiring stockholder approval including the election of directors and approval of significant corporate transactions. In particular, Remi Barbier, our founder, Chairman of the Board of Directors, President and Chief Executive Officer, owns or controls a significant amount of the voting power of our outstanding capital stock. This concentration of ownership may delay or prevent a change in control of the Company and may make some transactions, including but not limited to any merger, consolidation, or sale of substantially all of our assets, more difficult or impossible to complete without the support of key stockholders.

Publicly available information regarding stockholders' ownership may not be comprehensive because the SEC does not require certain large stockholders to publicly disclose their stock ownership positions.

If the fair value of our stock increases and outstanding performance awards vest, we expect to use substantial amounts of cash to fund employee tax liabilities.

We have performance awards outstanding. If these performance awards vest, we expect to issue our employees shares of our common stock net of statutory employment taxes. This net issuance results in fewer shares issued and uses our cash to fund these taxes. The use of cash could be substantially higher, depending on the fair value of our common stock on the date the performance awards vest. If our use of cash to fund these taxes is substantial, our cash balance could substantially decline and our stock price could also decline.

We may in the future seek to fund the cash used for performance awards through the sale of our common stock. However, we may not be successful in selling shares of our common stock to fund the cash used for performance awards. If the number of shares we sell to fund the cash used for performance awards is significant, our stock price could decline.

Volatility in the stock prices of other companies may contribute to volatility in our stock price.

The stock market in general, Nasdaq and the market for technology companies in particular, have experienced significant price and volume fluctuations that have often been unrelated or disproportionate to the operating performance of those companies. Further, there has been particular volatility in the market prices of securities of early stage life sciences companies. These broad market and industry factors may seriously harm the market price of our common stock, regardless of our operating performance. In the past, following periods of volatility in the market price of a company's securities, securities class action litigation has often been instituted. A securities class action suit against us could result in substantial costs, potential liabilities and the diversion of management's attention and resources.

Our operating results may fluctuate from quarter to quarter and this fluctuation may cause our stock price to decline.

Our quarterly operating results have fluctuated in the past and are likely to fluctuate in the future. Factors contributing to these fluctuations include, among other items, the timing and enrollment rates of clinical trials for our drug candidates, our need for clinical supplies and the valuation of stock-based compensation. Thus, quarter-to-quarter comparisons of our operating results may not be not indicative of what we might expect in the future. As a result, in some future quarters our clinical, financial or operating results may not meet the expectations of securities analysts and investors and could result in a decline in the price of our stock.

If securities or industry analysts publish inaccurate or unfavorable research about our business or product candidates, our stock price could decline.

Securities or industry analysts publish research and reports about our business or product candidates. An analyst's conclusions regarding prospects for product candidates in the biopharmaceutical industry can include judgments based on the limited publicly-available data. If one or more analysts issues unfavorable research about our business or our product candidates, including a downgrade of our common stock, the price of our stock may decline.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We estimate the net proceeds to us from the sale of our common stock in this offering, if any, will be approximately \$9.3 million, after deducting the placement agent fees and estimated offering expenses payable by us and excluding any proceeds we may receive upon exercise of the warrants being offered in the concurrent private placement.

We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering for drug development and general corporate purposes and for other working capital and general corporate purposes. This represents our best estimate of the manner in which we will use any net proceeds we receive from this offering based on the status of our business, but we have not reserved or allocated amounts for specific purposes and we cannot specify with certainty how or when we would use any net proceeds. We will have broad discretion in the application of any net proceeds we receive from this offering, and we could use any such proceeds for purposes other than those currently contemplated.

Until the funds are used, we intend to invest any net proceeds from this offering in interest-bearing money market or other accounts.

DILUTION

If you invest in our common stock, you will experience immediate dilution to the extent of the difference between the price per share you pay in this offering and the net tangible book value per share of our common stock immediately after this offering. Our net tangible book value per share is determined by dividing our total tangible assets, less total liabilities, by the number of shares of our common stock outstanding as of a particular date.

As of July 31, 2018, our net tangible book value was approximately \$8.0 million, or \$1.14 per share of our common stock, based upon 6,981,207 shares of our common stock outstanding as of that date.

After giving effect to the assumed sale of 8,860,778 shares of common stock in this offering at a price of \$1.15 per share, and after deducting estimated placement agent fees and other estimated offering expenses paid or payable by us, our adjusted net tangible book value as of July 31, 2018 would have been approximately \$17.3 million, or approximately \$1.09 per share. This represents an immediate decrease in net tangible book value of \$0.05 per share to our existing stockholders and immediate dilution in net tangible book value of \$0.06 per share to purchasers in this offering. The following table illustrates this calculation on a per share basis:

Offering price per share in this offering		\$	1.15
Net tangible book value per share as of July 31, 2018	\$	1.14	
Decrease in net tangible book value per share attributable to purchasers in this offering		(0.05)	
Adjusted net tangible book value per share immediately after this offering			1.09
Dilution per share to purchasers in this offering			0.06

The above discussion and table are based on 6,981,207 shares of common stock outstanding as of July 31, 2018 and exclude all of our securities issued subsequent to that date and also exclude, as of that date:

- 2,753,898 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of outstanding options having a weighted-average exercise price of \$15.44 per share, of which approximately 1,788,085 shares having a weighted-average exercise price of \$20.98 per share were exercisable;
- 152,340 shares of common stock issuable upon the vesting and settlement of outstanding restricted stock units;
- 985,000 shares of common stock reserved for issuance and available for future grant under our 2018 Omnibus Incentive Plan; and
- 58,017 shares of common stock reserved for issuance and available for future grant under our Employee Stock Purchase Plan.

The above illustration of dilution per share to investors participating in this offering assumes no exercise of options or warrants to purchase shares of our common stock, including up to 8,860,778 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise, at an exercise price of \$1.25, of the warrants to be issued in the private placement to the purchasers in this offering in the private placement (see "Private Placement of Warrants" for more information) and up to 265,823 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise, at an exercise price of \$1.59, of the warrants to be issued to the placement agent as compensation in connection with this offering (see "Plan of Distribution" for more information). The exercise of any such securities may increase dilution to purchasers in this offering. In addition, depending on market conditions, our capital requirements and strategic considerations, it is likely that we will need to pursue additional equity or convertible debt financings in the near term. Also, we may issue equity or convertible debt securities for other purposes, including, among others, stock splits, acquiring other businesses or assets or in connection with strategic alliances, attracting and retaining employees with equity compensation, anti-takeover purposes or other transactions. To the extent we raise additional capital or pursue any of these other purposes through the sale of equity or convertible debt securities, the issuance of these securities could result in further dilution to our stockholders.

PRIVATE PLACEMENT OF WARRANTS

In the private placement, we are selling to purchasers of shares of our common stock in this offering warrants to purchase an aggregate of up to 8,860,778 shares of our common stock, at a purchase price of \$0.125 per share. We expect the private placement will close concurrently with the closing of this offering.

The warrants and the shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of the warrants are not being registered under the Securities Act and are being offered pursuant to the exemption provided in Section 4(a)(2) under the Securities Act and Rule 506(b) promulgated thereunder, and they are not being offered pursuant to this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus. Accordingly, holders of the warrants may only sell any shares of common stock issued upon exercise of the warrants pursuant to an effective registration statement under the Securities Act covering the resale of those shares, an exemption under Rule 144 promulgated under the Securities Act or another applicable exemption under the Securities Act, and in compliance with all applicable state securities laws.

Each purchaser in this offering will receive in the private placement warrants to purchase up to 100% of the number of shares of common stock purchased by such purchaser in this offering. The warrants will be immediately exercisable on their date of issuance and will remain exercisable until the 2.5-year anniversary of their date of issuance, but not thereafter. The warrants will be exercisable at an exercise price of \$1.25 per share, which, along with the number of shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of the warrants, will be subject to adjustment for stock splits, reverse splits, and similar capital transactions as described in the warrants. A holder of warrants will have the right to exercise the warrants on a “cashless” basis in certain circumstances as described in the warrants. A holder of warrants will not have the right to exercise any portion of its warrants if the holder, together with its affiliates, would beneficially own in excess of either 4.99% or 9.99%, depending on the warrant agreement, of the number of our shares of our common stock outstanding immediately after giving effect to such exercise; provided, however, that upon at least 61 days prior notice to us, a holder may increase or decrease such limitation up to a maximum of 9.99% of the number of shares of common stock outstanding.

Holders of the warrants will have the right to participate in any rights offering or distribution of assets together with the holders of our common stock on an as-exercised basis.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We engaged H.C. Wainwright & Co., LLC, or Wainwright or the placement agent, to act as our exclusive placement agent to solicit offers to purchase the shares of our common stock offered by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus. Wainwright is not purchasing or selling any such shares, nor is it required to arrange for the purchase and sale of any specific number or dollar amount of such shares, other than to use its “reasonable best efforts” to arrange for the sale of such shares by us. Therefore, we may not sell all of the shares of our common stock being offered. The terms of this offering were subject to market conditions and negotiations between us, Wainwright and prospective investors. Wainwright will have no authority to bind us by virtue of the engagement letter. We have entered into securities purchase agreements directly with certain institutional and accredited investors who have agreed to purchase shares of our common stock in this offering. We will only sell to investors who have entered into securities purchase agreements.

Delivery of the shares of common stock offered hereby is expected to take place on or about August 17, 2018, subject to satisfaction of certain conditions.

We have agreed to pay the placement agent a total cash fee equal to 7.0% of the aggregate gross proceeds of this offering, and we have also agreed to pay the placement agent a non-accountable expense allowance of \$10,000, up to \$35,000 for fees and expenses of legal counsel and other out-of-pocket expenses actually incurred in connection with this offering and certain other reimbursement amounts payable. In addition, we have agreed to issue to the placement agent, at the closing of this offering, warrants to purchase 3% of the number of shares of our common stock sold in this offering (warrants to purchase up to 265,823 shares of our common stock). Such warrants will have substantially the same terms as the warrants being sold and issued in the private placement, except that the placement agent’s warrants will have an exercise price equal to 125% of the offering price (\$1.59 per share). Neither the placement agent’s warrants nor the shares of our common stock issuable upon exercise thereof are being registered hereby. Pursuant to Rule 5110(g) of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, or FINRA, the placement agent’s warrants and any shares issued upon exercise thereof will not be sold, transferred, assigned, pledged or hypothecated, or be the subject of any hedging, short sale, derivative, put or call transaction that would result in the effective economic disposition of the securities by any person, for a period of 180 days immediately following the date of effectiveness or commencement of sales in this offering, except: (i) the transfer of any security by operation of law or by reason of our reorganization; (ii) the transfer of any security to any FINRA member firm participating in the offering and the officers or partners thereof, if all securities so transferred remain subject to the lock-up restriction set forth above for the remainder of the time period; (iii) the transfer of any security if the aggregate amount of our securities held by the placement agent or related persons do not exceed 1% of the securities being offered; (iv) the transfer of any security that is beneficially owned on a pro-rata basis by all equity owners of an investment fund, provided that no participating member manages or otherwise directs investments by the fund and the participating members in the aggregate do not own more than 10% of the equity in the fund; or (v) the exercise or conversion of any security, if all securities remain subject to the lock-up restriction set forth above for the remainder of the time period.

The following table shows the per share and total cash fees we will pay to the placement agent in connection with the sale of our shares of common stock in this offering, assuming the purchase of all of the shares we are offering.

Per share	\$0.0805
Total	\$713,292.63

We estimate the total expenses of this offering paid or payable by us, excluding the placement agent fees in the table above, will be approximately \$170,000. After deducting the fees due to the placement agent and our estimated expenses in connection with this offering, we expect the net proceeds from this offering will be approximately \$9.3 million.

The placement agent may be deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of Section 2(a)(11) of the Securities Act, and any commissions received by it and any profit realized on the sale of our shares of common stock offered hereby by it while acting as principal might be deemed to be underwriting discounts or commissions under the Securities Act. The placement agent will be required to comply with the requirements of the Securities Act and the Exchange Act, including, without limitation, Rule 10b-5 and Regulation M under the Exchange Act. These rules and regulations may limit the timing of purchases and sales of our securities by the placement agent. Under these rules and regulations, the placement agent may not (i) engage in any stabilization activity in connection with our securities; and (ii) bid for or purchase any of our securities or attempt to induce any person to purchase any of our securities, other than as permitted under the Exchange Act, until they have completed their participation in the distribution.

Indemnification

We have agreed to indemnify the placement agent against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act and liabilities arising from breaches of representations and warranties contained in our engagement letter with the placement agent. We have also agreed to contribute to payments the placement agent may be required to make in respect of such liabilities.

In addition, we will indemnify the purchaser of shares of our common stock in this offering against liabilities arising out of or relating to (i) any breach of any of the representations, warranties, covenants or agreements made by us in the securities purchase agreement or related documents or (ii) any action instituted against a purchaser by a third party (other than a third party who is affiliated with such purchaser) with respect to the securities purchase agreement or related documents and the transactions contemplated thereby, subject to certain exceptions.

Other Relationships

From time to time, Wainwright may provide in the future various advisory, investment and commercial banking and other services to us in the ordinary course of business, for which they have received and may continue to receive customary fees and commissions. However, except as disclosed in this prospectus supplement, we have no present arrangements with Wainwright for any further services.

Trading Market

Our common stock is listed on The Nasdaq Capital Market under the symbol "PTIE."

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the securities offered by this prospectus supplement will be passed upon for us by Morrison & Foerster LLP, Palo Alto, California.

EXPERTS

The financial statements incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement have been so incorporated by reference in reliance upon the reports of Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference into this prospectus supplement certain information we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus supplement, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede information contained in this prospectus supplement. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below that we have previously filed with the SEC (excluding any portions of any Form 8-K that are not deemed "filed" pursuant to the General Instructions of Form 8-K):

- our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, filed with the SEC on February 6, 2018;
- our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2018 and June 30, 2018, filed with the SEC on May 9, 2018, and July 26, 2018, respectively;
- our definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A, filed with the SEC on March 27, 2018;
- our Current Reports on Form 8-K, filed with the SEC on February 9, 2018, March 16, 2018, May 1, 2018, May 11, 2018, July 9, 2018, August 6, 2018, and August 16, 2018; and
- the description of our common stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A as filed with the SEC on March 15, 2000, and any further amendment or report filed hereafter for the purpose of updating such description pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act.

We also incorporate by reference into this prospectus supplement additional documents that we may file with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act prior to the completion or termination of the offering, including all such documents we may file with the SEC after the date of the initial registration statement and prior to the effectiveness of the registration statement, but excluding any information deemed furnished and not filed with the SEC. Any statements contained in a previously filed document incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement is deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus supplement to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus supplement, or in a subsequently filed document also incorporated by reference herein, modifies or supersedes that statement.

As explained below in "Where You Can Find More Information," these incorporated documents (as well as other documents filed by us under the Exchange Act) are available at the SEC and may be accessed in a number of ways, including online via the Internet.

We will provide without charge to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom a prospectus supplement is delivered, upon written or oral request of that person, a copy of any or all of the documents we are

incorporating by reference into this prospectus supplement, other than exhibits to those documents unless such exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference into those documents. Such written requests should be addressed to:

Pain Therapeutics, Inc.
7801 N Capital of Texas Highway, Suite 260
Austin, TX 78731
United States of America
Attn: Investor Relations

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement under the Securities Act that registers the securities offered hereby. The registration statement, including the exhibits and schedules attached thereto and the information incorporated by reference therein, contains additional relevant information about the securities and our company, which we are allowed to omit from this prospectus supplement pursuant to the rules and regulations of the SEC. In addition, we file annual, quarterly and other reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Our SEC filings are available to the public over the Internet at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. You may also read and copy any document we file at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the Public Reference Room. Our Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, and Current Reports on Form 8-K, including any amendments to those reports, and other information that we file with or furnish to the SEC pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, can also be accessed free of charge through the Internet. These filings will be available as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish it to, the SEC.

We maintain a web site at www.paintrials.com. Information contained on our website is neither incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement nor a part hereof or any other document we file with or furnish to the SEC.

PROSPECTUS

\$75,000,000

PAIN THERAPEUTICS, INC.

By this prospectus, we may offer, from time to time:

- Common stock
- Preferred stock
- Depositary shares
- Warrants
- Debt securities

All of the securities listed above may be sold separately or as units with other securities.

This prospectus may not be used to sell securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement, which will describe the method and the terms of the offering. We will provide you with specific amount, price and terms of the applicable offered securities in one or more supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and any supplement carefully before you purchase any of our securities.

Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol "PTIE." On April 13, 2017, the closing price of our common stock on the NASDAQ Global Market was \$0.82 per share.

As of March 22, 2017, the aggregate market value of our outstanding common stock held by non-affiliates, or Public Float, was approximately \$39.7 million based on 46,141,935 shares of outstanding common stock, of which approximately 7,642,526 shares were held by affiliates, and a price of \$1.03 per share, which was the closing price of our common stock on the NASDAQ Capital Market on March 22, 2017. Pursuant to General Instruction I.B.6 of Form S-3, in no event will we sell securities registered in a public primary offering with a value exceeding more than one-third of our Public Float in any 12 calendar month period so long as our public float remains below \$75.0 million. We have not offered any securities pursuant to General Instruction I.B.6 of Form S-3 during the prior 12 calendar month period that ends on and includes the date of this prospectus. As of March 22, 2017, one-third of our Public Float is equal to approximately \$13.2 million.

Investing in our securities involves risk. Please carefully read the information under "Risk Factors" beginning on page 3 for information you should consider before investing in our securities.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

We may offer the securities in amounts, at prices and on terms determined at the time of offering. We may sell the securities directly to you, through agents we select, or through underwriters and dealers we select. If we use agents, underwriters or dealers to sell the securities, we will name them and describe their compensation in a prospectus supplement. In addition, the underwriters may overallocate a portion of the securities. For additional information regarding the methods of sale of our securities, you should refer to the section entitled "Plan of Distribution" in this prospectus.

This prospectus is dated July 31, 2017.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, using a “shelf” registration process. Under this shelf process, we may, from time to time, offer or sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities offered by us. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add to, update or change information contained in the prospectus and, accordingly, to the extent inconsistent, information in this prospectus is superseded by the information in the prospectus supplement.

The prospectus supplement to be attached to the front of this prospectus may describe, as applicable: the terms of the securities offered; the initial public offering price; the price paid for the securities; net proceeds; and the other specific terms related to the offering of the securities.

You should only rely on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement or issuer free writing prospectus relating to a particular offering. No person has been authorized to give any information or make any representations in connection with this offering other than those contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement and any related issuer free writing prospectus in connection with the offering described herein and therein, and, if given or made, such information or representations must not be relied upon as having been authorized by us. Neither this prospectus nor any prospectus supplement nor any related issuer free writing prospectus shall constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy offered securities in any jurisdiction in which it is unlawful for such person to make such an offering or solicitation. This prospectus does not contain all of the information included in the registration statement, including its exhibits. You should read the entire prospectus and any prospectus supplement and any related issuer free writing prospectus, as well as the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus or any prospectus supplement or any related issuer free writing prospectus, before making an investment decision. Neither the delivery of this prospectus or any prospectus supplement or any issuer free writing prospectus nor any sale made hereunder shall under any circumstances imply that the information contained or incorporated by reference herein or in any prospectus supplement or issuer free writing prospectus is correct as of any date subsequent to the date hereof or of such prospectus supplement or issuer free writing prospectus, as applicable.

PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

The following summary highlights information contained in this prospectus or incorporated by reference. While we have included what we believe to be the most important information about the company and this offering, the following summary may not contain all the information that may be important to you. You should read this entire prospectus carefully, including the risks of investing discussed under "Risk Factors" beginning on page 3, the information to which we refer you and the information incorporated into this prospectus by reference, for a complete understanding of our business and this offering. References in this prospectus to "our company," "we," "our," "Pain Therapeutics" and "us" refer to Pain Therapeutics, Inc.

Pain Therapeutics, Inc.

Overview

Pain Therapeutics, Inc. develops proprietary drugs that offer significant improvements to patients and healthcare professionals. We generally focus our drug development efforts on disorders of the nervous system, such as chronic pain.

Corporate Information

We were incorporated in Delaware in May 1998. Our principal executive offices are located at 7801 N Capital of Texas Highway, Suite 260, Austin, TX, 78731 and our telephone number at that address is (512) 501-2444.

The Securities We May Offer

We may offer up to \$75.0 million of common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares, warrants and debt securities in one or more offerings and in any combination. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. A prospectus supplement, which we will provide each time we offer securities, will describe the specific amounts, prices and terms of these securities.

We may sell the securities to or through underwriters, dealers or agents or directly to purchasers or as otherwise set forth below under "Plan of Distribution." We, as well as any agents acting on our behalf, reserve the sole right to accept and to reject in whole or in part any proposed purchase of securities. Each prospectus supplement will set forth the names of any underwriters, dealers, agents or other entities involved in the sale of securities described in that prospectus supplement and any applicable fee, commission or discount arrangements with them.

Common Stock

We may offer shares of our common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, either alone or underlying other registered securities convertible into our common stock. Holders of our common stock are entitled to receive dividends declared by our board of directors out of funds legally available for the payment of dividends, subject to rights, if any, of preferred stockholders. Currently, we do not pay a dividend. Each holder of common stock is entitled to one vote per share. The holders of common stock have no preemptive rights.

Preferred Stock and Depositary Shares

We may issue preferred stock in one or more series. Our board of directors or a committee designated by the board will determine the dividend, voting and conversion rights and other provisions at the time of sale. Each series of preferred stock will be more fully described in the particular prospectus supplement that will accompany this prospectus, including redemption provisions, rights in the event of liquidation, dissolution or the winding up of Pain Therapeutics, Inc., voting rights and rights to convert into common stock. We may also issue fractional shares of preferred stock that will be represented by depositary shares and depositary receipts. Each particular series of depositary shares will be more fully described in the prospectus supplement that will accompany this prospectus.

Warrants

We may issue warrants for the purchase of common stock, preferred stock or debt securities. We may issue warrants independently or together with other securities.

Debt Securities

We may offer secured or unsecured obligations in the form of one or more series of senior or subordinated debt. The senior debt securities and the subordinated debt securities are together referred to in this prospectus as the “debt securities.” The senior debt securities will have the same rank as all of our other unsubordinated debt. The subordinated debt securities generally will be entitled to payment only after payment of our senior debt. Senior debt generally includes all debt for money borrowed by us, except debt that is stated in the instrument governing the terms of that debt to be not senior to, or to have the same rank in right of payment as, or to be expressly junior to, the subordinated debt securities. We may issue debt securities that are convertible into shares of our common stock.

The senior and subordinated debt securities will be issued under separate indentures between us and a trustee. We have summarized the general features of the debt securities to be governed by the indentures. These indentures have been filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. We encourage you to read these indentures. Instructions on how you can get copies of these documents are provided under the heading “Where You Can Find More Information.”

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our securities involves a high degree of risk. The prospectus supplement applicable to each offering of our securities will contain a discussion of the risks applicable to an investment in our securities. Prior to making a decision about investing in our securities, you should carefully consider the specific factors discussed under the heading "Risk Factors" in the applicable prospectus supplement, together with all of the other information contained or incorporated by reference in the prospectus supplement or appearing or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. You should also consider the risks, uncertainties and assumptions discussed under Item 1A, "Risk Factors," in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016 which are incorporated herein by reference, and may be amended, supplemented or superseded from time to time by other reports we file with the SEC in the future and any prospectus supplement related to a particular offering. The risks and uncertainties we have described are not the only ones we face. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also affect our operations.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the registration statement of which it forms a part, any prospectus supplement, any related issuer free writing prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into these documents contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Forward-looking statements deal with our current plans, intentions, beliefs and expectations and statements of future economic performance. Statements containing terms such as "believe," "do not believe," "plan," "expect," "intend," "estimate," "anticipate" and other phrases of similar meaning are considered to contain uncertainty and are forward-looking statements. In addition, from time to time we or our representatives have made or will make forward-looking statements orally or in writing. Furthermore, such forward-looking statements may be included in various filings that we make with the SEC, or press releases or oral statements made by or with the approval of one of our authorized executive officers. These forward-looking statements are subject to certain known and unknown risks and uncertainties, as well as assumptions that could cause actual results to differ materially from those reflected in these forward-looking statements. Factors that might cause actual results to differ include, but are not limited to, those set forth under Item 1A, "Risk Factors," and Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operation," in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and in our future filings made with the SEC. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or any related issuer free writing prospectus, which reflect management's opinions only as of their respective dates. Except as required by law, we undertake no obligation to revise or publicly release the results of any revisions to any forward-looking statements. You are advised, however, to consult any additional disclosures we have made or will make in our reports to the SEC on Forms 10-K, 10-Q and 8-K. All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements attributable to us or persons acting on our behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements contained in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or any related issuer free writing prospectus.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to fixed charges on a historical basis for each of the periods indicated. You should read these ratios in connection with our consolidated financial statements, including the notes to those statements, incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

(In thousands, except ratios)	Fiscal Year Ended December 31,				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	—	769 to 1	—	—	—
Deficiency of earnings to fixed charges	33	41	39	48	53

Due to our losses in the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2014 through 2016, the ratio coverage was less than 1:1. Earnings of approximately \$0.1 million in each of the years December 31, 2012 and 2014 through 2016 would have been required to achieve a ratio of 1:1. As of the date of this prospectus, we have no shares of preferred stock outstanding, and consequently, our ratio of earnings to preferred share dividends and ratio of earnings to fixed charges would be identical.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, the net proceeds from the sale of securities offered by this prospectus will be used for general corporate purposes and working capital requirements, which may include, among other things, the repayment or repurchase of debt obligations and other capital expenditures. We may also use a portion of the net proceeds for licensing or acquiring intellectual property or technologies to incorporate into our products and product candidates or our research and development programs, capital expenditures, to fund possible investments in and acquisitions of complementary businesses or partnerships. We have not determined the amounts we plan to spend on the areas listed above or the timing of these expenditures, and we have no current plans with respect to acquisitions as of the date of this prospectus. As a result, unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, our management will have broad discretion to allocate the net proceeds of the offerings. Pending their ultimate use, we intend to invest the net proceeds in a variety of securities, including commercial paper, government and non-government debt securities and/or money market funds that invest in such securities.

DIVIDEND POLICY

Other than our special nondividend distributions in December 2012 and December 2010, we have not paid cash dividends on our common stock. We do not anticipate paying periodic cash dividends on our common stock for the foreseeable future. We intend to use all available cash and liquid assets in the operation and growth of our business. Any future determination about the payment of dividends will be made at the discretion of our board of directors and will depend upon our earnings, if any, capital requirements, operating and financial conditions and on such other factors as our board of directors deems relevant.

General

As of the date of this prospectus, our authorized capital stock consists of 130,000,000 shares. Those shares consist of 120,000,000 shares designated as common stock, \$0.001 par value, and 10,000,000 shares designated as preferred stock, \$0.001 par value. The only equity securities currently outstanding are shares of common stock. As of December 31, 2016, there were 46,141,935 shares of common stock issued and outstanding.

The following is a summary of the material provisions of the common stock and preferred stock provided for in our amended and restated certificate of incorporation (including the certificate of designation relating to the Series A Preferred) and bylaws. For additional detail about our capital stock, please refer to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation (including the certificate of designation relating to the Series A Preferred), and bylaws, each as amended, copies of which are incorporated by reference into the registration statement to which this prospectus relates.

Common stock

The holders of common stock are entitled to one vote per share on all matters to be voted upon by the stockholders. Subject to preferences that may be applicable to any outstanding preferred stock, the holders of common stock are entitled to receive ratably any dividends that may be declared from time to time by the board of directors out of funds legally available for that purpose. However, we are not currently paying any dividends. In the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the holders of common stock are entitled to share ratably in all assets remaining after payment of liabilities, subject to prior distribution rights of preferred stock then outstanding. The common stock has no preemptive or conversion rights or other subscription rights. There are no redemption or sinking fund provisions applicable to the common stock. The outstanding shares of common stock are fully paid and non-assessable, and any shares of common stock to be issued upon an offering pursuant to this prospectus and the related prospectus supplement will be fully paid and nonassessable upon issuance.

Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol "PTIE." The transfer agent and registrar for the common stock is Computershare Shareowner Services LLC. Its address is 330 N Brand Boulevard, Suite 701, Glendale, California, 91203-2389.

Preferred stock

The following description of preferred stock and the description of the terms of any particular series of preferred stock that we choose to issue hereunder and that will be set forth in the related prospectus supplement are not complete. These descriptions are qualified in their entirety by reference to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and the certificate of designation relating to that series. The rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions of the preferred stock of each series will be fixed by the certificate of designation relating to that series. The prospectus supplement also will contain a description of certain U.S. federal income tax consequences relating to the purchase and ownership of the series of preferred stock that is described in the prospectus supplement.

We currently have no shares of preferred stock outstanding. Our board of directors has the authority, without further action by the stockholders, to issue up to 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock in one or more series and to fix the rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions granted to or imposed upon the preferred stock. Any or all of these rights may be greater than the rights of the common stock.

The board of directors, without stockholder approval, can issue preferred stock with voting, conversion or other rights that could negatively affect the voting power and other rights of the holders of common stock. Preferred stock could thus be issued quickly with terms calculated to delay or prevent a change in control of us or make it more difficult to remove our management. Additionally, the issuance of preferred stock may have the effect of decreasing the market price of the common stock.

The prospectus supplement for a series of preferred stock will specify:

- the maximum number of shares;
- the designation of the shares;
- the annual dividend rate, if any, whether the dividend rate is fixed or variable, the date or dates on which dividends will accrue, the dividend payment dates, and whether dividends will be cumulative;
- the price and the terms and conditions for redemption, if any, including redemption at our option or at the option of the holders, including the time period for redemption, and any accumulated dividends or premiums;
- the liquidation preference, if any, and any accumulated dividends upon the liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs;
- any sinking fund or similar provision, and, if so, the terms and provisions relating to the purpose and operation of the fund;
- the terms and conditions, if any, for conversion or exchange of shares of any other class or classes of our capital stock or any series of any other class or classes, or of any other series of the same class, or any other securities or assets, including the price or the rate of conversion or exchange and the method, if any, of adjustment;
- the voting rights; and
- any or all other preferences and relative, participating, optional or other special rights, privileges or qualifications, limitations or restrictions.

Preferred stock will be fully paid and nonassessable upon issuance.

Anti-Takeover Effects of Some Provisions of Delaware Law

Provisions of Delaware law and our currently in effect amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended bylaws could make the acquisition of our company through a tender offer, a proxy contest or other means more difficult and could make the removal of incumbent officers and directors more difficult. We expect these provisions to discourage coercive takeover practices and inadequate takeover bids and to encourage persons seeking to acquire control of our company to first negotiate with our board of directors. We believe that the benefits provided by our ability to negotiate with the proponent of an unfriendly or unsolicited proposal outweigh the disadvantages of discouraging these proposals. We believe the negotiation of an unfriendly or unsolicited proposal could result in an improvement of its terms.

We are subject to Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, an anti-takeover law. In general, Section 203 prohibits a publicly held Delaware corporation from engaging in a “business combination” with an “interested stockholder” for a period of three years following the date the person became an interested stockholder, unless:

- Prior to the date of the transaction, the board of directors of the corporation approved either the business combination or the transaction which resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder;
- The stockholder owned at least 85% of the voting stock of the corporation outstanding at the time the transaction commenced, excluding for purposes of determining the number of shares outstanding (a) shares owned by persons who are directors and also officers, and (b) shares owned by employee stock

plans in which employee participants do not have the right to determine confidentially whether shares held subject to the plan will be tendered in a tender or exchange offer; or

- On or subsequent to the date of the transaction, the business combination is approved by the board and authorized at an annual or special meeting of stockholders, and not by written consent, by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the outstanding voting stock that is not owned by the interested stockholder.

Generally, a “business combination” includes a merger, asset or stock sale, or other transaction resulting in a financial benefit to the interested stockholder. An “interested stockholder” is a person who, together with affiliates and associates, owns or, within three years prior to the determination of interested stockholder status, did own 15% or more of a corporation’s outstanding voting securities. We expect the existence of this provision to have an anti-takeover effect with respect to transactions our board of directors does not approve in advance. We also anticipate that Section 203 may also discourage attempts that might result in a premium over the market price for the shares of common stock held by stockholders.

Anti-Takeover Effects of Provisions of Our Charter Documents

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides for our board of directors to be divided into three classes serving staggered terms. Approximately one-third of the board of directors will be elected each year. The provision for a classified board could prevent a party who acquires control of a majority of the outstanding voting stock from obtaining control of the board of directors until the second annual stockholders meeting following the date the acquirer obtains the controlling stock interest. The classified board provision could discourage a potential acquirer from making a tender offer or otherwise attempting to obtain control of our company and could increase the likelihood that incumbent directors will retain their positions. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that directors may be removed with cause by the affirmative vote of the holders of the outstanding shares of common stock.

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation requires that certain amendments of the amended and restated certificate of incorporation and certain amendments by the stockholders of our bylaws require the approval of at least 66 2/3% of the voting power of all outstanding stock. These provisions could discourage a potential acquirer from making a tender offer or otherwise attempting to obtain control of our company and could delay changes in our management.

Our amended bylaws establish an advance notice procedure for stockholder proposals to be brought before an annual meeting of our stockholders, including proposed nominations of persons for election to the board of directors. At an annual meeting, stockholders may only consider proposals or nominations specified in the notice of meeting or brought before the meeting by or at the direction of the board of directors. Stockholders may also consider a proposal or nomination by a person who was a stockholder of record on the record date for the meeting, who is entitled to vote at the meeting and who has given to our Secretary timely written notice, in proper form, of his or her intention to bring that business before the meeting. The amended bylaws do not give the board of directors the power to approve or disapprove stockholder nominations of candidates or proposals regarding other business to be conducted at a special or annual meeting of the stockholders. However, our bylaws may have the effect of precluding the conduct of business at a meeting if the proper procedures are not followed. These provisions may also discourage or deter a potential acquirer from conducting a solicitation of proxies to elect the acquirer’s own slate of directors or otherwise attempting to obtain control of our company.

Our amended bylaws provide that only our board of directors, the chairman of the board, the president or the chief executive officer may call a special meeting of stockholders. Because our stockholders do not have the right to call a special meeting, a stockholder could not force stockholder consideration of a proposal over the opposition of the board of directors by calling a special meeting of stockholders prior to such time as a majority of the board of directors believed or the chief executive officer believed the matter should be considered or until the next annual meeting provided that the requestor met the notice requirements. The restriction on the ability of stockholders to call a special meeting means that a proposal to replace the board also could be delayed until the next annual meeting.

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation does not allow stockholders to act by written consent without a meeting. Without the availability of stockholder's actions by written consent, a holder controlling a majority of our capital stock would not be able to amend our bylaws or remove directors without holding a stockholders' meeting. The holder would have to obtain the consent of a majority of the board of directors, the chairman of the board or the chief executive officer to call a stockholders' meeting and satisfy the notice periods determined by the board of directors.

General

At our option, we may elect to offer fractional shares of preferred stock, rather than full shares of preferred stock. If we do elect to offer fractional shares of preferred stock, we will issue receipts for depositary shares and each of these depositary shares will represent a fraction of a share of a particular series of preferred stock, as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement. Each owner of a depositary share will be entitled, in proportion to the applicable fractional interest in shares of preferred stock underlying that depositary share, to all rights and preferences of the preferred stock underlying that depositary share. These rights may include dividend, voting, redemption and liquidation rights.

The shares of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares will be deposited with a bank or trust company selected by us to act as depositary, under a deposit agreement by and among us, the depositary and the holders of the depositary receipts. The depositary will be the transfer agent, registrar and dividend disbursing agent for the depositary shares.

The depositary shares will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued pursuant to the depositary agreement. Holders of depositary receipts agree to be bound by the deposit agreement, which requires holders to take certain actions such as filing proof of residence and paying certain charges.

The summary of terms of the depositary shares contained in this prospectus is not complete, and is subject to modification in any prospectus supplement for any issuance of depositary shares. You should refer to the forms of the deposit agreement, our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and the certificate of designation that are, or will be, filed with the SEC for the applicable series of preferred stock.

Dividends

The depositary will distribute cash dividends or other cash distributions, if any, received in respect of the series of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares to the record holders of depositary receipts in proportion to the number of depositary shares owned by those holders on the relevant record date. The relevant record date for depositary shares will be the same date as the record date for the preferred stock.

In the event of a distribution other than in cash, the depositary will distribute property received by it to the record holders of depositary receipts that are entitled to receive the distribution, unless the depositary determines that it is not feasible to make the distribution. If this occurs, the depositary, with our approval, may adopt another method for the distribution, including selling the property and distributing the net proceeds to the holders.

Liquidation preference

If a series of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares has a liquidation preference, in the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, holders of depositary shares will be entitled to receive the fraction of the liquidation preference accorded each share of the applicable series of preferred stock, as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Redemption

If a series of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares is subject to redemption, the depositary shares will be redeemed from the proceeds received by the depositary resulting from the redemption, in whole or in part, of the preferred stock held by the depositary. Whenever we redeem any preferred stock held by the depositary, the depositary will redeem, as of the same redemption date, the number of depositary shares representing the preferred stock so redeemed. The depositary will mail the notice of redemption to the record holders of the depositary receipts promptly upon receiving the notice from us and not fewer than 20 or more than 60 days, unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, prior to the date fixed for redemption of the preferred stock.

Voting

Upon receipt of notice of any meeting at which the holders of preferred stock are entitled to vote, the depositary will mail the information contained in the notice of meeting to the record holders of the depositary receipts underlying the preferred stock. Each record holder of those depositary receipts on the record date will be entitled to instruct the depositary as to the exercise of the voting rights pertaining to the amount of preferred stock underlying that holder's depositary shares. The record date for the depositary will be the same date as the record date for the preferred stock. The depositary will, to the extent practicable, vote the preferred stock underlying the depositary shares in accordance with these instructions. We will agree to take all action that may be deemed necessary by the depositary in order to enable the depositary to vote the preferred stock in accordance with these instructions. The depositary will not vote the preferred stock to the extent that it does not receive specific instructions from the holders of depositary receipts.

Withdrawal of preferred stock

Owners of depositary shares will be entitled to receive upon surrender of depositary receipts at the principal office of the depositary and payment of any unpaid amount due to the depositary, the number of whole shares of preferred stock underlying their depositary shares.

Partial shares of preferred stock will not be issued. Holders of preferred stock will not be entitled to deposit the shares under the deposit agreement or to receive depositary receipts evidencing depositary shares for the preferred stock.

Amendment and termination of the deposit agreement

The form of depositary receipt evidencing the depositary shares and any provision of the deposit agreement may be amended by agreement between the depositary and us. However, any amendment which materially and adversely alters the rights of the holders of depositary shares, other than fee changes, will not be effective unless the amendment has been approved by at least a majority of the outstanding depositary shares. The deposit agreement may be terminated by the depositary or us only if:

- all outstanding depositary shares have been redeemed; or
- there has been a final distribution of the preferred stock in connection with our dissolution and such distribution has been made to all the holders of depositary shares.

Charges of depositary

We will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the depositary arrangement. We will also pay charges of the depositary in connection with:

- the initial deposit of the preferred stock;
- the initial issuance of the depositary shares;
- any redemption of the preferred stock; and
- all withdrawals of preferred stock by owners of depositary shares.

Holders of depositary receipts will pay transfer, income and other taxes and governmental charges and other specified charges as provided in the deposit agreement for their accounts. If these charges have not been paid, the depositary may:

- refuse to transfer depositary shares;

- withhold dividends and distributions; and
- sell the depositary shares evidenced by the depositary receipt.

Miscellaneous

The depositary will forward to the holders of depositary receipts all reports and communications we deliver to the depositary that we are required to furnish to the holders of the preferred stock. In addition, the depositary will make available for inspection by holders of depositary receipts at the principal office of the depositary, and at such other places as it may from time to time deem advisable, any reports and communications we deliver to the depositary as the holder of preferred stock.

Neither the depositary nor we will be liable if either the depositary or we are prevented or delayed by law or any circumstance beyond the control of either the depositary or us in performing our respective obligations under the deposit agreement. Our obligations and the depositary's obligations will be limited to the performance in good faith of our or the depositary's respective duties under the deposit agreement. Neither the depositary nor we will be obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceeding in respect of any depositary shares or preferred stock unless satisfactory indemnity is furnished. The depositary and we may rely on:

- written advice of counsel or accountants;
- information provided by holders of depositary receipts or other persons believed in good faith to be competent to give such information; and
- documents believed to be genuine and to have been signed or presented by the proper party or parties.

Resignation and removal of depositary

The depositary may resign at any time by delivering a notice to us. We may remove the depositary at any time. Any such resignation or removal will take effect upon the appointment of a successor depositary and its acceptance of such appointment. The successor depositary must be appointed within 60 days after delivery of the notice for resignation or removal. The successor depositary must be a bank and trust company having its principal office in the United States of America and having a combined capital and surplus of at least \$50,000,000.

Federal income tax consequences

Owners of the depositary shares will be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as if they were owners of the preferred stock underlying the depositary shares. As a result, owners will be entitled to take into account for U.S. federal income tax purposes and deductions to which they would be entitled if they were holders of such preferred stock. No gain or loss will be recognized for U.S. federal income tax purposes upon the withdrawal of preferred stock in exchange for depositary shares. The tax basis of each share of preferred stock to an exchanging owner of depositary shares will, upon such exchange, be the same as the aggregate tax basis of the depositary shares exchanged. The holding period for preferred stock in the hands of an exchanging owner of depositary shares will include the period during which such person owned such depositary shares.

General

We may issue warrants for the purchase of our debt securities, preferred stock or common stock, or any combination thereof. Warrants may be issued independently or together with our debt securities, preferred stock or common stock and may be attached to or separate from any offered securities. Each series of warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as warrant agent. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the warrants. The warrant agent will not have any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders or beneficial owners of warrants. This summary of certain provisions of the warrants is not complete. For the terms of a particular series of warrants, you should refer to the prospectus supplement for that series of warrants and the warrant agreement for that particular series.

Debt warrants

The prospectus supplement relating to a particular issue of warrants to purchase debt securities will describe the terms of the debt warrants, including the following:

- the title of the debt warrants;
- the offering price for the debt warrants, if any;
- the aggregate number of the debt warrants;
- the designation and terms of the debt securities, including any conversion rights, purchasable upon exercise of the debt warrants;
- if applicable, the date from and after which the debt warrants and any debt securities issued with them will be separately transferable;
- the principal amount of debt securities that may be purchased upon exercise of a debt warrant and the exercise price for the warrants, which may be payable in cash, securities or other property;
- the dates on which the right to exercise the debt warrants will commence and expire;
- if applicable, the minimum or maximum amount of the debt warrants that may be exercised at any one time;
- whether the debt warrants represented by the debt warrant certificates or debt securities that may be issued upon exercise of the debt warrants will be issued in registered or bearer form;
- information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any; the currency or currency units in which the offering price, if any, and the exercise price are payable;
- if applicable, a discussion of material U.S. federal income tax considerations;
- the antidilution provisions of the debt warrants, if any;
- the redemption or call provisions, if any, applicable to the debt warrants;
- any provisions with respect to the holder's right to require us to repurchase the warrants upon a change in control or similar event; and

- any additional terms of the debt warrants, including procedures, and limitations relating to the exchange, exercise and settlement of the debt warrants.

Debt warrant certificates will be exchangeable for new debt warrant certificates of different denominations. Debt warrants may be exercised at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the prospectus supplement. Prior to the exercise of their debt warrants, holders of debt warrants will not have any of the rights of holders of the debt securities purchasable upon exercise and will not be entitled to payment of principal or any premium, if any, or interest on the debt securities purchasable upon exercise.

Equity warrants

The prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of warrants to purchase our common stock or preferred stock will describe the terms of the warrants, including the following:

- the title of the warrants;
- the offering price for the warrants, if any;
- the aggregate number of warrants;
- the designation and terms of the common stock or preferred stock that may be purchased upon exercise of the warrants;
- if applicable, the designation and terms of the securities with which the warrants are issued and the number of warrants issued with each security;
- if applicable, the date from and after which the warrants and any securities issued with the warrants will be separately transferable;
- the number of shares of common stock or preferred stock that may be purchased upon exercise of a warrant and the exercise price for the warrants;
- the dates on which the right to exercise the warrants shall commence and expire;
- if applicable, the minimum or maximum amount of the warrants that may be exercised at any one time;
- the currency or currency units in which the offering price, if any, and the exercise price are payable;
- if applicable, a discussion of material U.S. federal income tax considerations;
- the antidilution provisions of the warrants, if any;
- the redemption or call provisions, if any, applicable to the warrants;
- any provisions with respect to the holder's right to require us to repurchase the warrants upon a change in control or similar event; and
- any additional terms of the warrants, including procedures, and limitations relating to the exchange, exercise and settlement of the warrants.

Holders of equity warrants will not be entitled:

- to vote, consent or receive dividends;

- receive notice as stockholders with respect to any meeting of stockholders for the election of our directors or any other matter; or
- exercise any rights as stockholders of us.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DEBT SECURITIES

The debt securities may be either secured or unsecured and will either be our senior debt securities or our subordinated debt securities. The debt securities will be issued under one or more separate indentures between us and a trustee to be specified in an accompanying prospectus supplement. Senior debt securities will be issued under a senior indenture and subordinated debt securities will be issued under a subordinated indenture. Together, the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture are called indentures in this description. This prospectus, together with the applicable prospectus supplement, will describe the terms of a particular series of debt securities.

The following is a summary of selected provisions and definitions of the indentures and debt securities to which any prospectus supplement may relate. The summary of selected provisions of the indentures and the debt securities appearing below is not complete and is subject to, and qualified entirely by reference to, all of the provisions of the applicable indenture and certificates evidencing the applicable debt securities. For additional information, you should look at the applicable indenture and the certificate evidencing the applicable debt security that is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement that includes the prospectus. In this description of the debt securities, the words "Pain Therapeutics," "we," "us," or "our" refer only to Pain Therapeutics, Inc. and not to any of our subsidiaries, unless we expressly state or the context otherwise requires.

The following description sets forth selected general terms and provisions of the applicable indenture and debt securities to which any prospectus supplement may relate. Other specific terms of the applicable indenture and debt securities will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. If any particular terms of the indenture or debt securities described in a prospectus supplement differ from any of the terms described below, then the terms described below will be deemed to have been superseded by that prospectus supplement.

General

Debt securities may be issued in separate series without limitation as to aggregate principal amount. We may specify a maximum aggregate principal amount for the debt securities of any series.

We are not limited as to the amount of debt securities we may issue under the indentures. Unless otherwise provided in a prospectus supplement, a series of debt securities may be reopened to issue additional debt securities of such series.

The prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of debt securities will set forth:

- whether the debt securities are senior or subordinated;
- the offering price;
- the title;
- any limit on the aggregate principal amount;
- the person who shall be entitled to receive interest, if other than the record holder on the record date;
- the date or dates the principal will be payable;
- the interest rate or rates, which may be fixed or variable, if any, the date from which interest will accrue, the interest payment dates and the regular record dates, or the method for calculating the dates and rates;
- the place where payments may be made;
- any mandatory or optional redemption provisions or sinking fund provisions and any applicable redemption or purchase prices associated with these provisions;

- if issued other than in denominations of U.S. \$1,000 or any multiple of U.S. \$1,000, the denominations in which the debt securities shall be issuable;
- if applicable, the method for determining how the principal, premium, if any, or interest will be calculated by reference to an index or formula;
- if other than U.S. currency, the currency or currency units in which principal, premium, if any, or interest will be payable and whether we or a holder may elect payment to be made in a different currency;
- the portion of the principal amount that will be payable upon acceleration of maturity, if other than the entire principal amount;
- if the principal amount payable at stated maturity will not be determinable as of any date prior to stated maturity, the amount or method for determining the amount which will be deemed to be the principal amount;
- if applicable, whether the debt securities shall be subject to the defeasance provisions described below under “Satisfaction and discharge; defeasance” or such other defeasance provisions specified in the applicable prospectus supplement for the debt securities;
- any conversion or exchange provisions;
- whether the debt securities will be issuable in the form of a global security;
- any subordination provisions applicable to the subordinated debt securities if different from those described below under “Subordinated debt securities;”
- any paying agents, authenticating agents, security registrars or other agents for the debt securities, if other than the trustee;
- any provisions relating to any security provided for the debt securities, including any provisions regarding the circumstances under which collateral may be released or substituted;
- any deletions of, or changes or additions to, the events of default, acceleration provisions or covenants;
- any provisions relating to guaranties for the securities and any circumstances under which there may be additional obligors; and
- any other specific terms of such debt securities.

Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement, the debt securities will be registered debt securities. Debt securities may be sold at a substantial discount below their stated principal amount, bearing no interest or interest at a rate which at time of issuance is below market rates. The U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to debt securities sold at a discount will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Exchange and transfer

Debt securities may be transferred or exchanged at the office of the security registrar or at the office of any transfer agent designated by us.

We will not impose a service charge for any transfer or exchange, but we may require holders to pay any tax or other governmental charges associated with any transfer or exchange.

In the event of any partial redemption of debt securities of any series, we will not be required to:

- issue, register the transfer of, or exchange, any debt security of that series during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day of mailing of a notice of redemption and ending at the close of business on the day of the mailing; or
- register the transfer of or exchange any debt security of that series selected for redemption, in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion being redeemed in part.

We will appoint the trustee as the initial security registrar. Any transfer agent, in addition to the security registrar initially designated by us, will be named in the prospectus supplement. We may designate additional transfer agents or change transfer agents or change the office of the transfer agent. However, we will be required to maintain a transfer agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of each series.

Global securities

The debt securities of any series may be represented, in whole or in part, by one or more global securities. Each global security will:

- be registered in the name of a depositary, or its nominee, that we will identify in a prospectus supplement;
- be deposited with the depositary or nominee or custodian; and
- bear any required legends.

No global security may be exchanged in whole or in part for debt securities registered in the name of any person other than the depositary or any nominee unless:

- the depositary has notified us that it is unwilling or unable to continue as depositary or has ceased to be qualified to act as depositary;
- an event of default is continuing with respect to the debt securities of the applicable series; or
- any other circumstance described in a prospectus supplement has occurred permitting or requiring the issuance of any such security.

As long as the depositary, or its nominee, is the registered owner of a global security, the depositary or nominee will be considered the sole owner and holder of the debt securities represented by the global security for all purposes under the indentures. Except in the above limited circumstances, owners of beneficial interests in a global security will not be:

- entitled to have the debt securities registered in their names;
- entitled to physical delivery of certificated debt securities; or
- considered to be holders of those debt securities under the indenture.

Payments on a global security will be made to the depositary or its nominee as the holder of the global security. Some jurisdictions have laws that require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery of such securities in definitive form. These laws may impair the ability to transfer beneficial interests in a global security.

Institutions that have accounts with the depositary or its nominee are referred to as “participants.” Ownership of beneficial interests in a global security will be limited to participants and to persons that may hold beneficial

interests through participants. The depositary will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the respective principal amounts of debt securities represented by the global security to the accounts of its participants.

Ownership of beneficial interests in a global security will be shown on and effected through records maintained by the depositary, with respect to participants' interests, or any participant, with respect to interests of persons held by participants on their behalf.

Payments, transfers and exchanges relating to beneficial interests in a global security will be subject to policies and procedures of the depositary. The depositary policies and procedures may change from time to time. Neither any trustee nor we will have any responsibility or liability for the depositary's or any participant's records with respect to beneficial interests in a global security.

Payment and paying agents

Unless otherwise indicated in a prospectus supplement, the provisions described in this paragraph will apply to the debt securities. Payment of interest on a debt security on any interest payment date will be made to the person in whose name the debt security is registered at the close of business on the regular record date. Payment on debt securities of a particular series will be payable at the office of a paying agent or paying agents designated by us. However, at our option, we may pay interest by mailing a check to the record holder. The trustee will be designated as our initial paying agent.

We may also name any other paying agents in a prospectus supplement. We may designate additional paying agents, change paying agents or change the office of any paying agent. However, we will be required to maintain a paying agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of a particular series.

All moneys paid by us to a paying agent for payment on any debt security that remain unclaimed for a period ending the earlier of:

- 10 business days prior to the date the money would be turned over to the applicable state; or
 - at the end of two years after such payment was due,
- will be repaid to us thereafter. The holder may look only to us for such payment.

No protection in the event of a change of control

Unless otherwise indicated in a prospectus supplement with respect to a particular series of debt securities, the debt securities will not contain any provisions that may afford holders of the debt securities protection in the event we have a change in control or in the event of a highly leveraged transaction, whether or not such transaction results in a change in control.

Covenants

Unless otherwise indicated in a prospectus supplement with respect to a particular series of debt securities, the debt securities will not contain any financial or restrictive covenants.

Consolidation, merger and sale of assets

Unless we indicate otherwise in a prospectus supplement with respect to a particular series of debt securities, we may not consolidate with or merge into any other person (other than a subsidiary of us), in a transaction in which we are not the surviving corporation, or convey, transfer or lease our properties and assets substantially as an entirety to, any person (other than a subsidiary of us), unless:

- the successor entity, if any, is a U.S. corporation, limited liability company, partnership, trust or other business entity;
- the successor entity assumes our obligations on the debt securities and under the indentures;

- immediately after giving effect to the transaction, no default or event of default shall have occurred and be continuing; and
- certain other conditions specified in the indenture are met.

Events of default

Unless we indicate otherwise in a prospectus supplement, the following will be events of default for any series of debt securities under the indentures:

- (1) we fail to pay principal of or any premium on any debt security of that series when due;
- (2) we fail to pay any interest on any debt security of that series for 60 days after it becomes due;
- (3) we fail to deposit any sinking fund payment when due;
- (4) we fail to perform any other covenant in the indenture and such failure continues for 90 days after we are given the notice required in the indentures; and
- (5) certain events involving our bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization.

Additional or different events of default applicable to a series of debt securities may be described in a prospectus supplement. An event of default of one series of debt securities is not necessarily an event of default for any other series of debt securities.

The trustee may withhold notice to the holders of any default, except defaults in the payment of principal, premium, if any, interest, any sinking fund installment on, or with respect to any conversion right of, the debt securities of such series. However, the trustee must consider it to be in the interest of the holders of the debt securities of such series to withhold this notice.

Unless we indicate otherwise in a prospectus supplement, if an event of default, other than an event of default described in clause (5) above, shall occur and be continuing with respect to any series of debt securities, either the trustee or the holders of at least a 25 percent in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding securities of that series may declare the principal amount and premium, if any, of the debt securities of that series, or if any debt securities of that series are original issue discount securities, such other amount as may be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, in each case together with accrued and unpaid interest, if any, thereon, to be due and payable immediately.

Unless we indicate otherwise in a prospectus supplement, if an event of default described in clause (5) above shall occur, the principal amount and premium, if any, of all the debt securities of that series, or if any debt securities of that series are original issue discount securities, such other amount as may be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, in each case together with accrued and unpaid interest, if any, thereon, will automatically become immediately due and payable. Any payment by us on the subordinated debt securities following any such acceleration will be subject to the subordination provisions described below under "Subordinated debt securities."

Notwithstanding the foregoing, each indenture will provide that we may, at our option, elect that the sole remedy for an event of default relating to our failure to comply with our obligations described under the section entitled "Reports" below or our failure to comply with the requirements of Section 314(a)(1) of the Trust Indenture Act will for the first 180 days after the occurrence of such an event of default consist exclusively of the right to receive additional interest on the relevant series of debt securities at an annual rate equal to (i) 0.25% of the principal amount of such series of debt securities for the first 90 days after the occurrence of such event of default and (ii) 0.50% of the principal amount of such series of debt securities from the 91st day to, and including, the 180th day after the occurrence of such event of default, which we call "additional interest." If we so elect, the additional interest will accrue on all outstanding debt securities from and including the date on which such event of default first occurs until such violation is cured or waived and shall be payable on each relevant interest payment date to holders of record on the regular record date immediately preceding the interest payment date. On the 181st day after such event of default (if such violation is not cured or waived prior to such 181st day), the debt securities will be subject to acceleration as provided

above. In the event we do not elect to pay additional interest upon any such event of default in accordance with this paragraph, the debt securities will be subject to acceleration as provided above.

In order to elect to pay the additional interest as the sole remedy during the first 180 days after the occurrence of any event of default relating to the failure to comply with the reporting obligations in accordance with the preceding paragraph, we must notify all holders of debt securities and the trustee and paying agent of such election prior to the close of business on the first business day following the date on which such event of default occurs. Upon our failure to timely give such notice or pay the additional interest, the debt securities will be immediately subject to acceleration as provided above.

After acceleration, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding securities of that series may, under certain circumstances, rescind and annul such acceleration if all events of default, other than the non-payment of accelerated principal, or other specified amounts or interest, have been cured or waived.

Other than the duty to act with the required care during an event of default, the trustee will not be obligated to exercise any of its rights or powers at the request of the holders unless the holders shall have offered to the trustee reasonable indemnity. Generally, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee.

A holder of debt securities of any series will not have any right to institute any proceeding under the indentures, or for the appointment of a receiver or a trustee, or for any other remedy under the indentures, unless:

(1) the holder has previously given to the trustee written notice of a continuing event of default with respect to the debt securities of that series;

(2) the holders of at least 25 percent in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series have made a written request and have offered reasonable indemnity to the trustee to institute the proceeding; and

(3) the trustee has failed to institute the proceeding and has not received direction inconsistent with the original request from the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series within 60 days after the original request.

Holders may, however, sue to enforce the payment of principal, premium or interest on any debt security on or after the due date or to enforce the right, if any, to convert any debt security (if the debt security is convertible) without following the procedures listed in (1) through (3) above.

We will furnish the trustee an annual statement from our officers as to whether or not we are in default in the performance of the conditions and covenants under the indenture and, if so, specifying all known defaults.

Modification and waiver

Unless we indicate otherwise in a prospectus supplement, the applicable trustee and we may make modifications and amendments to an indenture with the consent of the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding securities of each series affected by the modification or amendment.

We may also make modifications and amendments to the indentures for the benefit of holders without their consent, for certain purposes including, but not limited to:

- providing for our successor to assume the covenants under the indenture;
- adding covenants or events of default;
- making certain changes to facilitate the issuance of the securities;
- securing the securities;
- providing for a successor trustee or additional trustees;

- curing any ambiguities or inconsistencies;
- providing for guaranties of, or additional obligors on, the securities;
- permitting or facilitating the defeasance and discharge of the securities; and
- other changes specified in the indenture.

However, neither the trustee nor we may make any modification or amendment without the consent of the holder of each outstanding security of that series affected by the modification or amendment if such modification or amendment would:

- change the stated maturity of any debt security;
- reduce the principal, premium, if any, or interest on any debt security or any amount payable upon redemption or repurchase, whether at our option or the option of any holder, or reduce the amount of any sinking fund payments;
- reduce the principal of an original issue discount security or any other debt security payable on acceleration of maturity;
- change the place of payment or the currency in which any debt security is payable;
- impair the right to enforce any payment after the stated maturity or redemption date;
- if subordinated debt securities, modify the subordination provisions in a materially adverse manner to the holders;
- adversely affect the right to convert any debt security if the debt security is a convertible debt security; or
- change the provisions in the indenture that relate to modifying or amending the indenture.

Satisfaction and discharge; defeasance

We may be discharged from our obligations on the debt securities, subject to limited exceptions, of any series that have matured or will mature or be redeemed within one year if we deposit enough money with the trustee to pay all the principal, interest and any premium due to the stated maturity date or redemption date of the debt securities.

Each indenture contains a provision that permits us to elect either or both of the following:

- we may elect to be discharged from all of our obligations, subject to limited exceptions, with respect to any series of debt securities then outstanding. If we make this election, the holders of the debt securities of the series will not be entitled to the benefits of the indenture, except for the rights of holders to receive payments on debt securities or the registration of transfer and exchange of debt securities and replacement of lost, stolen or mutilated debt securities.
- we may elect to be released from our obligations under some or all of any financial or restrictive covenants applicable to the series of debt securities to which the election relates and from the consequences of an event of default resulting from a breach of those covenants.

To make either of the above elections, we must irrevocably deposit in trust with the trustee enough money to pay in full the principal, interest and premium on the debt securities. This amount may be made in cash and/or U.S. government obligations or, in the case of debt securities denominated in a currency other than U.S. dollars, cash in the currency in which such series of securities is denominated and/or foreign government obligations. As a condition to either of the above elections, for debt securities denominated in U.S. dollars we must deliver to the trustee an opinion of counsel that the holders of the debt securities will not recognize income, gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a result of the action.

With respect to debt securities of any series that are denominated in a currency other than United States dollars, “foreign government obligations” means:

- direct obligations of the government that issued or caused to be issued the currency in which such securities are denominated and for the payment of which obligations its full faith and credit is pledged, or, with respect to debt securities of any series which are denominated in Euros, direct obligations of certain members of the European Union for the payment of which obligations the full faith and credit of such members is pledged, which in each case are not callable or redeemable at the option of the issuer thereof; or
- obligations of a person controlled or supervised by or acting as an agency or instrumentality of a government described in the bullet above the timely payment of which is unconditionally guaranteed as a full faith and credit obligation by such government, which are not callable or redeemable at the option of the issuer thereof.

Reports

The indentures provide that any reports or documents that we file with the SEC pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act will be filed with the trustee within 15 days after the same is filed with the SEC. Documents filed by us with the SEC via the EDGAR system will be deemed filed with the trustee as of the time such documents are filed with the SEC.

Notices

Notices to holders will be given by mail to the addresses of the holders in the security register.

Governing law

The indentures and the debt securities will be governed by, and construed under, the laws of the State of New York.

No personal liability of directors, officers, employees and stockholders

No incorporator, stockholder, employee, agent, officer, director or subsidiary of ours will have any liability for any obligations of ours, or because of the creation of any indebtedness under the debt securities, the indentures or supplemental indentures. The indentures provide that all such liability is expressly waived and released as a condition of, and as a consideration for, the execution of such indentures and the issuance of the debt securities.

Regarding the trustee

The indentures limit the right of the trustee, should it become our creditor, to obtain payment of claims or secure its claims.

The trustee will be permitted to engage in certain other transactions with us. However, if the trustee acquires any conflicting interest, and there is a default under the debt securities of any series for which it is trustee, the trustee must eliminate the conflict or resign.

Subordinated debt securities

The following provisions will be applicable with respect to each series of subordinated debt securities, unless otherwise stated in the prospectus supplement relating to that series of subordinated debt securities.

The indebtedness evidenced by the subordinated debt securities of any series is subordinated, to the extent provided in the subordinated indenture and the applicable prospectus supplement, to the prior payment in full, in cash or other payment satisfactory to the holders of senior debt, of all senior debt, including any senior debt securities.

Upon any distribution of our assets upon any dissolution, winding up, liquidation or reorganization, whether voluntary or involuntary, marshalling of assets, assignment for the benefit of creditors, or in bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or other similar proceedings, payments on the subordinated debt securities will be subordinated in right of payment to the prior payment in full in cash or other payment satisfactory to holders of senior debt of all senior debt.

In the event of any acceleration of the subordinated debt securities of any series because of an event of default with respect to the subordinated debt securities of that series, holders of any senior debt would be entitled to payment in full in cash or other payment satisfactory to holders of senior debt of all senior debt before the holders of subordinated debt securities are entitled to receive any payment or distribution.

In addition, the subordinated debt securities will be structurally subordinated to all indebtedness and other liabilities of our subsidiaries, including trade payables and lease obligations. This occurs because our right to receive any assets of our subsidiaries upon their liquidation or reorganization, and your right to participate in those assets, will be effectively subordinated to the claims of that subsidiary's creditors, including trade creditors, except to the extent that we are recognized as a creditor of such subsidiary. If we are recognized as a creditor of that subsidiary, our claims would still be subordinate to any security interest in the assets of the subsidiary and any indebtedness of the subsidiary senior to us.

We are required to promptly notify holders of senior debt or their representatives under the subordinated indenture if payment of the subordinated debt securities is accelerated because of an event of default.

Under the subordinated indenture, we may also not make payment on the subordinated debt securities if:

- a default in our obligations to pay principal, premium, if any, interest or other amounts on our senior debt occurs and the default continues beyond any applicable grace period, which we refer to as a payment default; or
- any other default occurs and is continuing with respect to designated senior debt that permits holders of designated senior debt to accelerate its maturity, which we refer to as a non-payment default, and the trustee receives a payment blockage notice from us or some other person permitted to give the notice under the subordinated indenture.

We will resume payments on the subordinated debt securities:

- in case of a payment default, when the default is cured or waived or ceases to exist, and
- in case of a nonpayment default, the earlier of when the default is cured or waived or ceases to exist or 179 days after the receipt of the payment blockage notice.

No new payment blockage period may commence on the basis of a nonpayment default unless 365 days have elapsed from the effectiveness of the immediately prior payment blockage notice. No nonpayment default that existed or was continuing on the date of delivery of any payment blockage notice to the trustee shall be the basis for a subsequent payment blockage notice.

As a result of these subordination provisions, in the event of our bankruptcy, dissolution or reorganization, holders of senior debt may receive more, ratably, and holders of the subordinated debt securities may receive less, ratably, than our other creditors. The subordination provisions will not prevent the occurrence of any event of default under the subordinated indenture.

The subordination provisions will not apply to payments from money or government obligations held in trust by the trustee for the payment of principal, interest and premium, if any, on subordinated debt securities pursuant to the provisions described under the section entitled "Satisfaction and discharge; defeasance," if the subordination provisions were not violated at the time the money or government obligations were deposited into trust.

If the trustee or any holder receives any payment that should not have been made to them in contravention of subordination provisions before all senior debt is paid in full in cash or other payment satisfactory to holders of senior debt, then such payment will be held in trust for the holders of senior debt.

Senior debt securities will constitute senior debt under the subordinated indenture.

Additional or different subordination provisions may be described in a prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of debt securities.

Definitions

“Designated senior debt” means our obligations under any particular senior debt in which the instrument creating or evidencing the same or the assumption or guarantee thereof, or related agreements or documents to which we are a party, expressly provides that such indebtedness shall be designated senior debt for purposes of the subordinated indenture. The instrument, agreement or other document evidencing any designated senior debt may place limitations and conditions on the right of such senior debt to exercise the rights of designated senior debt.

“Indebtedness” means the following, whether absolute or contingent, secured or unsecured, due or to become due, outstanding on the date of the indenture for such series of securities or thereafter created, incurred or assumed:

- our indebtedness evidenced by a credit or loan agreement, note, bond, debenture or other written obligation;
- all of our obligations for money borrowed;
- all of our obligations evidenced by a note or similar instrument given in connection with the acquisition of any businesses, properties or assets of any kind,
- our obligations:
- as lessee under leases required to be capitalized on the balance sheet of the lessee under generally accepted accounting principles, or
- as lessee under leases for facilities, capital equipment or related assets, whether or not capitalized, entered into or leased for financing purposes;
- all of our obligations under interest rate and currency swaps, caps, floors, collars, hedge agreements, forward contracts or similar agreements or arrangements;
- all of our obligations with respect to letters of credit, bankers’ acceptances and similar facilities, including reimbursement obligations with respect to the foregoing;
- all of our obligations issued or assumed as the deferred purchase price of property or services, but excluding trade accounts payable and accrued liabilities arising in the ordinary course of business;
- all obligations of the type referred to in the above clauses of another person, the payment of which, in either case, we have assumed or guaranteed, for which we are responsible or liable, directly or indirectly, jointly or severally, as obligor, guarantor or otherwise, or which are secured by a lien on our property; and
- renewals, extensions, modifications, replacements, restatements and refundings of, or any indebtedness or obligation issued in exchange for, any such indebtedness or obligation described in the above clauses of this definition.

“Senior debt” means the principal of, premium, if any, and interest, including all interest accruing subsequent to the commencement of any bankruptcy or similar proceeding, whether or not a claim for post-petition interest is allowable as a claim in any such proceeding, and rent payable on or in connection with, and all fees and other amounts payable in connection with, our indebtedness. However, senior debt shall not include:

- any debt or obligation if its terms or the terms of the instrument under which or pursuant to which it is issued expressly provide that it shall not be senior in right of payment to the subordinated debt securities or expressly provide that such indebtedness is on the same basis or “junior” to the subordinated debt securities;
 - or
 - debt to any of our subsidiaries, a majority of the voting stock of which is owned, directly or indirectly, by us.
- “Subsidiary” means a corporation more than 50% of the outstanding voting stock of which is owned, directly or indirectly, by us or by one or more of our other subsidiaries or by a combination of us and our other subsidiaries. For purposes of this definition, “voting stock” means stock or other similar interests which ordinarily has or have voting power for the election of directors, or persons performing similar functions, whether at all times or only so long as no senior class of stock or other interests has or have such voting power by reason of any contingency.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities offered through this prospectus (1) to or through underwriters or dealers, (2) directly to purchasers, including our affiliates, (3) through agents, or (4) through a combination of any these methods. The securities may be distributed at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed, market prices prevailing at the time of sale, prices related to the prevailing market prices, or negotiated prices. The prospectus supplement will include the following information:

- the terms of the offering;
- the names of any underwriters or agents;
- the name or names of any managing underwriter or underwriters;
- the purchase price of the securities;
- the net proceeds from the sale of the securities;
- any delayed delivery arrangements;
- any underwriting discounts, commissions and other items constituting underwriters' compensation;
- any initial public offering price;
- any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers; and
- any commissions paid to agents.

Sale through underwriters or dealers

If underwriters are used in the sale, the underwriters will acquire the securities for their own account, including through underwriting, purchase, security lending or repurchase agreements with us. The underwriters may resell the securities from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions. Underwriters may sell the securities in order to facilitate transactions in any of our other securities (described in this prospectus or otherwise), including other public or private transactions and short sales. Underwriters may offer securities to the public either through underwriting syndicates represented by one or more managing underwriters or directly by one or more firms acting as underwriters. Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the securities will be subject to certain conditions, and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all the offered securities if they purchase any of them. The underwriters may change from time to time any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers.

If dealers are used in the sale of securities offered through this prospectus, we will sell the securities to them as principals. They may then resell those securities to the public at varying prices determined by the dealers at the time of resale. The prospectus supplement will include the names of the dealers and the terms of the transaction.

Direct sales and sales through agents

We may sell the securities offered through this prospectus directly. In this case, no underwriters or agents would be involved. Such securities may also be sold through agents designated from time to time. The prospectus supplement will name any agent involved in the offer or sale of the offered securities and will describe any commissions payable to the agent. Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, any agent will agree to use its reasonable best efforts to solicit purchases for the period of its appointment.

We may sell the securities directly to institutional investors or others who may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act with respect to any sale of those securities. The terms of any such sales will be described in the prospectus supplement.

Underwriter, dealer or agent discounts and commissions

Underwriters, dealers or agents may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from us or our purchasers as their agents in connection with the sale of securities. These underwriters, dealers or agents may be considered to be underwriters under the Securities Act. As a result, discounts, commissions, or profits on resale received by the underwriters, dealers or agents may be treated as underwriting discounts and commissions. Each prospectus supplement will identify any such underwriter, dealer or agent, and describe any compensation received by them from us. Any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time. The maximum commission or discount to be received by any underwriter, dealer or agent will not be greater than eight percent (8%) of the maximum gross proceeds of the securities that may be sold under this prospectus.

Delayed delivery contracts

If the prospectus supplement indicates, we may authorize agents, underwriters or dealers to solicit offers from certain types of institutions to purchase securities at the public offering price under delayed delivery contracts. These contracts would provide for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. The contracts would be subject only to those conditions described in the prospectus supplement. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the commission payable for solicitation of those contracts.

Market making, stabilization and other transactions

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement states otherwise, each series of offered securities will be a new issue and will have no established trading market. We may elect to list any series of offered securities on an exchange. Any underwriters that we use in the sale of offered securities may make a market in such securities, but may discontinue such market making at any time without notice. Therefore, we cannot assure you that the securities will have a liquid trading market.

Any underwriter may also engage in stabilizing transactions, syndicate covering transactions and penalty bids in accordance with Rule 104 under the Securities Exchange Act. Stabilizing transactions involve bids to purchase the underlying security in the open market for the purpose of pegging, fixing or maintaining the price of the securities. Syndicate covering transactions involve purchases of the securities in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover syndicate short positions.

Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a syndicate member when the securities originally sold by the syndicate member are purchased in a syndicate covering transaction to cover syndicate short positions. Stabilizing transactions, syndicate covering transactions and penalty bids may cause the price of the securities to be higher than it would be in the absence of the transactions. The underwriters may, if they commence these transactions, discontinue them at any time.

Derivative transactions and hedging

We, the underwriters or other agents may engage in derivative transactions involving the securities. These derivatives may consist of short sale transactions and other hedging activities. The underwriters or agents may acquire a long or short position in the securities, hold or resell securities acquired and purchase options or futures on the securities and other derivative instruments with returns linked to or related to changes in the price of the securities. In order to facilitate these derivative transactions, we may enter into security lending or repurchase agreements with the underwriters or agents. The underwriters or agents may effect the derivative transactions through sales of the securities to the public, including short sales, or by lending the securities in order to facilitate short sale transactions by others. The underwriters or agents may also use the securities purchased or borrowed from us or others (or, in the case of

derivatives, securities received from us in settlement of those derivatives) to directly or indirectly settle sales of the securities or close out any related open borrowings of the securities.

Electronic auctions

We may also make sales through the Internet or through other electronic means. Since we may from time to time elect to offer securities directly to the public, with or without the involvement of agents, underwriters or dealers, utilizing the Internet or other forms of electronic bidding or ordering systems for the pricing and allocation of such securities, you should pay particular attention to the description of that system we will provide in a prospectus supplement.

Such electronic system may allow bidders to directly participate, through electronic access to an auction site, by submitting conditional offers to buy that are subject to acceptance by us, and which may directly affect the price or other terms and conditions at which such securities are sold. These bidding or ordering systems may present to each bidder, on a so-called "real-time" basis, relevant information to assist in making a bid, such as the clearing spread at which the offering would be sold, based on the bids submitted, and whether a bidder's individual bids would be accepted, prorated or rejected. For example, in the case of a debt security, the clearing spread could be indicated as a number of "basis points" above an index treasury note. Of course, many pricing methods can and may also be used.

Upon completion of such an electronic auction process, securities will be allocated based on prices bid, terms of bid or other factors. The final offering price at which securities would be sold and the allocation of securities among bidders would be based in whole or in part on the results of the Internet or other electronic bidding process or auction.

General information

Agents, underwriters, and dealers may be entitled, under agreements entered into with us, to indemnification by us against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the securities offered by this prospectus will be passed upon by Morrison & Foerster LLP, New York, New York.

EXPERTS

The financial statements of Pain Therapeutics, Inc. appearing in its Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2016, and the effectiveness of Pain Therapeutics, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2016 have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their reports thereon, included therein, and incorporated herein by reference. Such financial statements as of December 31, 2016 have been incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such reports given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and other reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Our SEC filings are available to the public over the Internet at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. You may also read and copy any document we file at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the Public Reference Room. Our Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, and Current Reports on Form 8-K, including any amendments to those reports, and other information that we file with or furnish to the SEC pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act can also be accessed free of charge through the Internet. These filings will be available as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish it to, the SEC. Information contained on our website is not part of this prospectus.

INFORMATION INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference into this prospectus certain information we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede information contained in this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below that we have previously filed with the SEC (excluding any portions of any Form 8-K that are not deemed "filed" pursuant to the General Instructions of Form 8-K):

- our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, filed on March 7, 2017;
- our Current Reports on Form 8-K, filed on February 17, 2017 (one filing regarding the resignation of our Chief Financial Officer) and March 21, 2017;
- the description of our common stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A as filed with the SEC on March 15, 2000, and any further amendment or report filed hereafter for the purpose of updating such description pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act; and
- the description of our Preferred Stock Purchase Rights contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed on May 3, 2005, as amended on September 27, 2006, February 2, 2010 and June 20, 2013, and any further amendment or report filed hereafter for the purpose of updating such description pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act.

We also incorporate by reference into this prospectus additional documents that we may file with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act prior to the completion or termination of the offering, including all such documents we may file with the SEC after the date of the initial registration statement and prior to the effectiveness of the registration statement, but excluding any information deemed furnished and not filed with the SEC. Any statements contained in a previously filed document incorporated by reference into this prospectus is deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus, or in a subsequently filed document also incorporated by reference herein, modifies or supersedes that statement.

You may request a copy of these filings, at no cost to you, by telephoning us at (512) 501-2444 or by writing us at the following address:

Pain Therapeutics, Inc.
7801 N Capital of Texas Highway, Suite 260
Austin, TX 78731
United States of America
Attn: Investor Relations



PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

PAIN THERAPEUTICS, INC.

8,860,778 Shares of Common Stock

H.C. Wainwright & Co.

August 15, 2018
